

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, April 2, 2004

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**Sports** Gaucho boys reel off four league volleyball wins [C1]

**Arts** The Crucible teaches the fire arts in Oakland [C10]

## Albany nearing zoning accord

Zoning will address development guidelines for San Pablo Ave. and adjacent streets

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — It's taken numerous meetings over the last several months, but the planning and zoning commission and residents are getting closer to reaching a consensus over how San Pablo Avenue and adjacent streets should be zoned.

The majority of the commission is leaning toward following guidelines set out in the city's 1990 general plan that encourages high-density housing on Sains Street and Adams Avenue, a key request from residents in the area.

Up until last October, the planning and zoning commission was looking to a 1997 planning doc-

See ZONING, Page A9

## Longtime planning staffer stepping down

El Cerrito's public works director has also opted for early retirement

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — As the retiring management assistant in the city's planning department, Betsy Cazden had nothing but kind words for her fellow employees.

"This is a group of folks who will earn their money, help each other and do a good job," said Cazden, who has worked for the city for 20 years and whose last day with the city is today.

Cazden, 69, was hired in 1984 to work in the building department, helping people get through the permitting process when they wanted to build something. She moved over to the planning department three years later and has been there ever since.

In contrast to the building department, the planning division looks at where buildings are allowed to go up and considers their appearance. She was happy to work with city planners, who

See RETIRE, Page A9

## HAVE AN OPINION? SHARE IT

The Journal is looking for readers to share their views about community issues via e-mail for a new feature — Talk Back.

We are inviting readers of all ages to be part of a network of Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington residents willing to comment occasionally on various issues and community concerns.

Opinions, along with your name, city of residence, and photo, will be printed in the Talk Back column.

To participate, e-mail your name, address and phone number to journal@cctimes.com.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

## Players parade

ALBANY LITTLE LEAGUE teams march and horseplay their way down Solano Avenue for the annual parade on Saturday March 27. Right, Nils Defty, 7, of the Single A Tigers dances around in the team's banner before the start of the parade. Below, Jianlu Xu holds his daughter Jane, 6, on his shoulders as they look over the parade.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

## Glitches slow school renovation

■ The scheduled completion of renovation at the school has been pushed back to winter 2005

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Problems discovered at Harding Elementary School have pushed back completion of the \$13.9 million renovations happening there by a few months, said West Contra Costa County School District engineering officer Bill Savidge.

The renovations are part of a district-wide effort to renovate schools using hundreds of millions of dollars in bond measure money approved by voters.

Savidge said Harding has been among the most problematic school to renovate because of a series of problems that have arisen at the site. It's pushed back the completion date from winter of 2005.

"We have a bunch of jobs that

are going fine and one or two we have problems with," Savidge said, adding that Lincoln Elementary School in El Sobrante has also been a difficult project.

The problems at Harding include: having to build a new foundation in a place where one should have already been; removing more asbestos than anticipated; and finding dry rot in the wood.

The project has a construction contingency of \$891,700; Savidge expects at least \$435,000 of that to be used to address problems at the site.

The Harding improvements include removing hazardous materials, and installing new electrical wiring, plumbing, seismically strong walls and refinished bathrooms, wood floors and cabinetry. Madera Elementary School is undergoing similar renovations.

It's part of a \$269 million effort to renovate 18 elementary

See DELAY, Page A9

## West County schools buoyed by donations

■ An anonymous woman donated \$500,000 for use in libraries and athletics

By Ana Facio Contreras  
STAFF WRITER

The West Contra Costa school district has received more than \$643,800 in donations since severe budget cuts were made in early March, with the largest gift coming this week through an anonymous donor to the San Francisco Foundation. The \$500,000 donation was split with \$350,000 going to libraries and \$150,000 slated for athletics.

Sandra Hernandez, the philanthropic group's chief executive officer, said the donation made Monday by a female donor reflects the foundation's efforts in promoting literacy and athletics.

"(Work) in our geographical region includes Contra Costa County," Hernandez said. "We're strongly committed to the county and ... we're concerned about what's happening and plan to help where we can."

Although the group is based in San Francisco, some of the foundation's projects are conducted in West County, she said.

District Superintendent Gloria Johnston said she was "absolutely overwhelmed" by the large donation.

"It shows how community members really do care about the children in our schools," she said. Donations to save programs

from budget cuts have steadily come in since the school board on March 8 made \$16.5 million in cuts for the 2004-2005 school year, including all school libraries, athletics, elementary music and 201 jobs, including principals and psychologists.

Not included in the \$643,800 donation total is a first-of-its-kind anonymous donation of \$10,000 to restore forensics by a former Richmond High School student body president to honor debate coach Robert France, officials said.

Also outstanding is a \$15,000 donation from the San Jose Saber-Cats, which the indoor football team's vice president Hank Stern said would be made this week to the athletics account. The team is donating 100 percent of the proceeds from selected \$5 ticket sales to its March 26 game.

After the school board approved the deep budget cuts, Wells Fargo & Co. gave a \$50,000 to the district, Mechanics Bank gave \$25,000, and the Safeway Foundation gave \$50,000.

The Oakland A's offered part of the proceeds from ticket sales for the games on June 9, July 27 and August 25. Order forms for tickets to those games are available on the district's Web site at www.wccusd.k12.ca.us.

The school board also put an \$8 million parcel tax on a special June 8 mail ballot.

Reach Ana Facio Contreras at 510-262-2798 or acontreras@cctimes.com

## DONATION ACCOUNTS

People can direct donations for specific uses by designating one of several Mechanics Bank accounts:

■ WCCUSD Athletics Account #039-645177; balance: \$165,614  
■ WCCUSD Libraries & Books Account #039-645495; balance: \$373,106  
■ WCCUSD Parcel Tax Alternate Account #039-646556; balance: \$104,359

■ WCCUSD Music Account #039-646564; balance: \$785

Checks can be dropped off at any Mechanics Bank branch or mailed to the corporate headquarters, 3170 Hilltop Mall Road, Richmond 94806.

Source: West Contra Costa Unified School District

## Life is a Movie

■ It's spring and that can only mean one thing: "April Love." Page A3

## At the Library

■ Virtual library help is great for those who can't get to the library. Page A5



## Martin Snapp

■ It's the worst weekend of the year for devoted night owls. Page A3

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Crossword ..... C6

INSIDE

&gt;KNIGHT RIDDER&lt;

INFORMATION FOR LIFE







# Neighbors

## Local women swear by meeting of minds

An El Cerrito resident is the very orderly in Exchange, in which members pose questions and offer solutions

By Marian Magid  
CORRESPONDENT

While ancient Greeks brought pressing questions to the Oracle at Delphi, some East Bay women take their queries — with as much faith and hope — to Brain Exchange.

There, at monthly meetings in El Cerrito home, they seek practical solutions to problems far to many 21st century men.

What kinds of problems? Thirty-something Sarah can't live if it's time for her to have a baby — or if motherhood would interfere with her writing career.

Bettina, an earnest-looking outswoman, wants to find a job in an environmental organization that serves disabled people.

An artist named Anna is thinking about renting out a room in her small home but isn't sure how to avoid a "tenant from hell" who would upset her quiet life.

At the Brain Exchange, these women all got suggestions — lots of suggestions.

The group gathers in the home of its founders, Anita Goldstein. Meetings start at 7 p.m., but 3:45 all of the 20 or so seats are taken, and late-comers have to squeeze into the back of the room.

It sits on the floor. Some participants attend steadily for years; others come and go. Most newcomers are with someone who has been there before.

Participants then pull cards from a deck, and questions are asked by those holding the seven lowest cards.

Topics have ranged from "How do I market my business?" to "How do I find forgiveness in myself?" to "How can I survive life with a teenager — or mother-in-law?"

do I market my business?" to "How do I find forgiveness in myself?" to "How can I survive life with a teenager — or mother-in-law?"

Other members then ask clarifying questions. When the questioner is satisfied that the group understands what she's asking, a timer is set for five minutes.

The timer's first tick has the effect of a starter pistol. The room explodes with rapid-fire tips and referrals. The idea is to give a brief recommendation or referral — and then stop talking. It's not OK to tell stories or to discuss or rebut what's said, and those who do get gentle but firm reminders from Anita.

The result is dozens of succinct answers to each question, ranging from the practical to the far-out.

Sarah, the prospective mom, is advised to "realize there is never a perfect time to have a child," to "read the book 'Operating Instructions' by successful writer-mother Anne Lamott," to "spend time around new babies before

you decide to have one," and to realize that "being a mom will make you tired whether you're 18 or 64." After a series of cautions, a cheerful middle-aged woman gets lots of positive nods when she says, "With all the accomplishments and travel in my life, I consider my kids my greatest production. Go for it!"

Job-seeker Bettina, a first-timer at the meeting, gets a list of more than 20 contacts for environmental work, including two that specialize in wilderness trips for disabled people. A look of amazement crosses her face as she whispers a nearly breathless, "Gee, thanks" when her turn ends.

Anna hits her own jackpot in her search for a renter. One woman says she'll send Anna a list of questions and some proven tips that "virtually guarantee you'll get a good tenant." Someone suggests a science graduate student — they almost never leave their labs. Another advises her to call airlines for a "tenant from heaven" — pilots or flight attendants who need an occasional place to sleep.

For more information about The Brain Exchange, go to [www.the-brainexchange.com](http://www.the-brainexchange.com). The next meeting is April 15.



COURTESY OF ANITA GOLDSTEIN

**WOMEN LISTEN TO A QUESTION** put before them at "the Brain Exchange," a monthly brainstorming session held at a home in El Cerrito. Questions can be anything — recent subject matter included everything from "How do I market my business?" to "How do I find forgiveness in myself?" to "How can I survive life with a teenager — or mother-in-law?"

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ROBERT MENZIMER  
Life is a Movie

plenty, even for the Rock.

So he sentences Nick to go live on his uncle's horse farm in Kentucky. And that's where we meet Nick as the movie opens. In the April sunshine, he's strolling along the road toward his new home in horse country, warbling the movie's first song. He even whistles the intro, something I'm sure Al Capone hardly ever did at Alcatraz.

Nick has many adventures on his way to becoming a sulky driver (!) at the county fair harness races in the movie's final reel. He tries his best to corrupt rural Kentucky, and you can imagine the challenge — it'd be like trying to turn the Albany YMCA into a bookie joint.

He talks back to his kindly Aunt Henrietta, something Paul Muni never did in "Scarface". He soups up his stern Uncle Jed's tractor, something Edward G. Robinson never did in "Little Caesar." And he gets car grease all over the radiant

Shirley Jones, something James Cagney never did in "White Heat," at least not with Shirley Jones.

But his real crime is foisting the title song on the locals at a community dance in my favorite scene in the movie. He even wins five bucks for his efforts, something that's never happened to me at the Albany Y.

I used to skip classes in college just to watch this movie. I know, you've subjected yourself to worse tortures in the interest of skipping classes, but I used to skip even English classes for "April Love," and they were my favorites. I was truly sick.

Still am. As I do every spring, I watched the movie this week, in the middle of the day, when I could have been paying bills or cleaning out the

cat box.

I know I shouldn't berate myself over this. I'll bet I'm no worse than anyone else. I'll bet I've seen you pouring yourself a Slurpee at the 7-Eleven on Solano. (I was in there buying a nutrition bar, myself.)

But I can't beat this rap. I can't deny that this "April Love" deal makes members of my family want to re-check the chlorine level in their gene pool, or, in one specific instance, the fine print on her marriage license.

It's a horrible situation. And, in a perfect world, we'd all be this head-over-heels about something every month of the year.

Robert Menzimer is an Albany writer. Reach him at [lifeisamovie@pacbell.net](mailto:lifeisamovie@pacbell.net).

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## Einstein's brain spent the night in Berkeley

HANGING IN the place of honor in Berkeley

Mayor Tom Bates' office, right next to his portrait of Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, is a '40s movie poster for a "fallen woman" flick titled "That Hagen Girl."

"Her mind was made up!" screams the poster. "She was going to meet Tom Bates, the man who had made her unworthy of love!"

Guess who plays "Tom Bates"? Ronald Reagan.

And now, the most bizarre factoid about Berkeley I've ever heard — and that's saying a lot — courtesy of local writer Richard Sterling, author of the new edition of "Lonely Planet San Francisco Guide." It's about the Flamingo Motel on University Ave. To quote: "A very famous person once stayed here. Well, part of him. When Albert Einstein died, an autopsy was performed, during the course of which the surgeon removed the brain. And kept it! In a jar of formaldehyde, on a shelf in his home!"

"When he decided to return the gray matter to Einstein's heirs, he found that Einstein's daughter was living in Berkeley. So he motored across America, Einstein in the trunk, and checked into the flaming pink Flamingo Motel. Good night, Mr. Einstein."

Speaking of good nights, I won't be having many after tonight.

I belong to an oppressed minority: the Night Owls. We are locked in a never-ending battle against our arch-enemies, the Early Birds. And tomorrow night is the high point of their year — and the low point of ours — the beginning of Daylight Saving Time.

This masochistic ritual is either a really bad April Fool's joke or a sinister conspiracy to rob us all of a precious hour's sleep.

Sure, you can try going to bed an hour earlier. But Mother Nature isn't fooled that easily. No matter how many Melatonin's you pop, your body is still going to say, "Uh-uh, not 'til I'm ready."

And to add insult to injury, the Early Birds even try to make us feel guilty about it. For centuries, a long string of Early Bird propagandists has

been lording it over us, from Aesop ("The early bird catches the worm") to Samuel Johnson ("Nobody who does not rise early will ever do any good") to Benjamin Franklin ("Early to bed and early to rise/Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise") to James Russell Lowell ("You've got to get up early/If you want to take in God.")

The truth is, Daylight Saving Time is like hitting your head against the wall: It feels so good when you stop. And it will stop, too — Oct. 31, to be precise. We Night Owls will be crossing the days off the calendar until then.

So, speaking for Night Owls everywhere, I say to you Early Birds: Enjoy it while you can. In six months we'll get our revenge, and then we can all go back to living like civilized people again.

Finally, good news for Billy Raimondi fans. (And there are a lot of you, judging from all the calls and e-mails I received after last week's column about the longtime Oaks catcher.) Prompted by popular demand, Jerry Brown has declared Monday, April 5, Opening Day, "Billy Raimondi Day" in the city of Oakland.

Hats off to Hizzoner (a diehard Seals fan when he was growing up in San Francisco, by the way). Hats off to Raimondi's many admirers, who made this day happen.

And, especially, hats off to Billy Raimondi. Two of those calls I got were from his former bat boys, Bobby Arieta of Pleasant Hill, who was the Oaks' bat boy from '38 to '42, and Bill Castellanos of Pinole, who was the Seals' visiting team bat boy from '51 to '57. And they both said the same thing: A greater gentleman never bestrode the diamond.

Play ball!



MARTIN SNAPP  
Snapp Shots

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Play ball!

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or [msnapp@cctimes.com](mailto:msnapp@cctimes.com).

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The West Alameda Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday, 9:30 am - 1 pm Year round, rain or shine, and is located at Webster & Taylor.

The Jack London Square Farmer's Market is open every Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm Year round, rain or shine, and is located at Jack London Square, Broadway & Embarcadero.

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## THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

## EDITORIAL

## Honoring the rites of spring

THIS IS ONE of the best times of the year, not just because of baseball — but it wouldn't be the same without the sport.

Trees are full of blossoms or have moved on to green leaves, the hills around the Bay are still green and the local baseball fields are full of children who don't know what a steroid is.

It still may be a little chilly, and even damp — just like a summer night at Pac Bell — er, SBC — Park, but it is still baseball.

For Little League players and beyond, to the Pony League to high school softball and baseball stars, it's time to play ball.

Albany and El Cerrito's small players have paraded and been applauded by friends and family just for being in the game — and ultimately, that's what it's really all about.

Baseball is a familiar, comforting presence in the background every day for the next few months. The beautiful geometry of a baseball diamond, the sudden thrills of the game, the personal achievement as well as the victories that only teamwork can bring about, are reflections of all that is good about our nation.

Hopes are still running high in the spring. Just as gardeners love this season for its possibilities — buds about to burst into bloom, the ravages of weeds and insects still too distant to worry about — lovers of baseball can still nurture hopes that their teams will come out on top.

Baseball is one of the few sports that can be enjoyed by the ear alone — the plays happen with few enough principals that a good announcer can make us see what's happening even when we aren't watching.

No wonder some fans like to tune the radio to professional games either to have on in the background, or to provide the soundtrack to a TV with the volume turned all the way down.

We wonder how many promising young players have imagined hearing their own names as part of an announcer's patter as they put on their uniforms, take the field and start to warm up. The temptation is irresistible.

But the professionals of tomorrow — the young players of today — need places to play, and the lack of playing fields is always on the minds of civic leaders here.

Last month Albany agreed to advance Berkeley up to \$100,000 for costs relating to playing field construction, just to have more of them nearby. The city joined Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond and Emeryville to form a joint powers authority that will focus on developing the ball fields on land owned by the East Bay Regional Park District.

"I think the feeling is if Albany can help make something happen sooner and better for the Albany community and neighboring communities particularly for kids, to get them ball fields — I think the feeling is, 'Let's do it,'" said City Administrator Beth Pollard at the time about the Albany deal, which uses funds from city bond Measure R, passed in 1996 to raise money for open space, play fields or creek restorations.

It's clear that the feeling is, if the cities build them, many will come, and play, and that that is a very good thing.

The benefits of playing sports and the community benefit of supporting and watching them is something that almost needs no explanation — especially not at this, one of the best times of the year.

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

## House of Representatives

**Barbara Lee:** (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Canyon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9617; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

**Ellen Tauscher:** (D-10th District, El Cerrito, Kensington) 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 555, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-932-8899 or 1034 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

## State Senate

**Don Perata:** (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

**Tom Torlakson:** (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083. E-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

## Assembly

**Loni Hancock:** (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 916 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

## County Supervisors

**John Gioia:** (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

**Keith Carson:** (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

## EBMUD

**David Richardson:** Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@jgc.org

## East Bay Regional Parks

**Jean Siri:** Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

## AC Transit

**Joe Wallace:** Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

## Stege Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

## Cities

**El Cerrito:** City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

**Albany:** City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

**Kensington:** Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

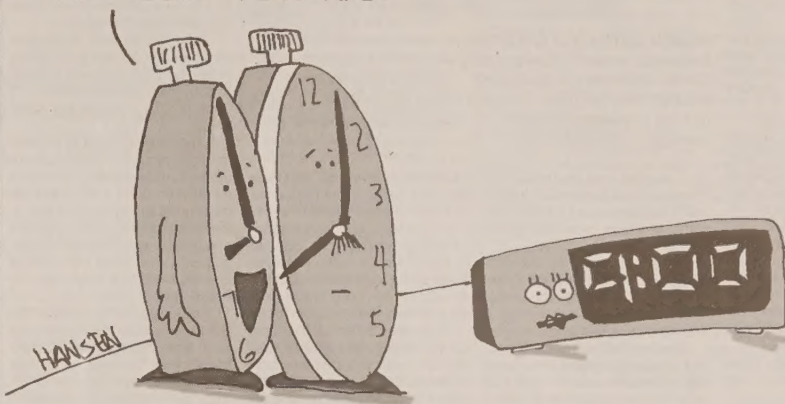
Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

## School boards

**West Contra Costa Unified School District:** 510-620-2246

**Albany Unified School District:** 510-558-3766

I THINK SHE'S TOO YOUNG FOR YOU.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Full investigation in order

The West Contra Costa school district has been less than honest about its budget problems.

It's fiscal forecast claims 2003-04 revenues of \$201 million when, in fact, revenues were \$256 million. The district owes a balloon payment of \$5.6 million to the state because it failed to put aside funds in past years as they were supposed to.

It is illogical to cut sports, music and counselors, due mainly to declining enrollment. According to the state, the school district received more funding in 2002 than any comparable district: \$900 per pupil over the state average.

Nevertheless, the district paid teachers less than average salaries, accounting for less than half of the budget.

Many parents, including me, will be pulling their children out of the district. This school district has a long tradition of fiscal irresponsibility that continues to this day. Unlike Oakland, our state trustee seems satisfied to sit back and watch us suffer.

I strongly urge concerned residents to contact the governor and ask for a full investigation of the West Contra Costa school district.

Richard Firestone  
El Cerrito

## It's ludicrous

In the discussion over legalizing same-gender marriages, let's try applying the analogy of desegregation of an all-white learning institute (University of So and So).

By definition, this institution was created to serve only whites and has always been all-white. If we allow a non-white student, it would no longer be all-white! You see, it goes against the definition of being an all-white institution.

If we were to allow non-whites into this university, then how could we then discriminate against fourth-graders wanting to register or, for that matter, what about non-humans, or what if people wanted to register as a group, to be taught, tested and receive a degree as a group?

This whole notion goes against the very essence of exclusivity. Just because radical judges or a self-serving mayors seek to undermine these age-old tenets, doesn't mean we must stand idly by witnessing this anarchy.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that you simply can't enroll a non-white into an all-white university. It's ludicrous.

Ron Greenstein  
El Cerrito

## Electric bills spying

A news story about the police raid on the family with the \$300 monthly electric bills mentioned that it is a "common practice" by police to "review" electric bills.

Is that so? Is there an officer with a box of doughnuts lounging in front of a computer all day down at the station snooping into everyone's utility usage, instead of being out on the streets by the school yards watching deals going down, and getting some exercise?

When did this start? Not the doughnut abuse, but the spying into how much we keep our lights on and wash our underpants? Why isn't this part of the story explained?

Brian Nelson  
El Cerrito

## Israel's only course

The reality on the ground in Israel: Arafat's Fatah, Hamas, Hezbollah and the myriad other terrorist organizations don't seek a peaceful solution to the crisis. They seek only the destruction of Israel. Period.

Those who condemn the Israeli practice of targeting the leadership of the terrorist organizations fail to understand this is the only course Israel can follow. They also fail to appreciate that, if war can ever be called civilized, the killing of those responsible for terror — the leaders, planners and funders — is certainly more civilized than, and cannot be deemed equivalent to, the slaughter of innocent civilians, targeted by the terrorists because of their innocence.

Perhaps one day the Palestinian Arabs

## HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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E-MAIL: journal@octimes.com

will wake up to the truth and reject the leaders who have taken them so far down the road of destruction. Had they rejected Arafat prior to the summer of 2000, they might have spent the last three and one-half years in state-building instead of spending those years seeing their infrastructure demolished because of the violence of their "leaders."

David A. Brown  
El Cerrito

## Cal's intention?

This is another one of those letters, because I am another one of those people who breathes air. And because the only thing I know of which manufactures oxygen is plants, and significantly the trees, I am conscious of the Gill Tract.

Since trees are given to us to replenish the oxygen, and plants sustain us with food, I would like to know what we could do to save the trees and the gardens at the tiny plot on San Pablo Avenue called Gill Tract.

Is UC Berkeley aware that other cities have urban gardens and that in earthquake territory steps taken to have a local food supply would be a very progressive move?

Studies show that there's a canopy of electromagnetic energy across the planet which comes from the trees and forests.

Areas rich in plants and trees allow for more harmonious communities because trees and gardens provide peace in the form of etheric nourishments that distress human beings. What is Cal's intention to alleviate the stress and congestion of this project, both on the road and in the air?

Shay Stephen  
Albany

## Budget woes

As one of the union presidents representing classified employees of the West Contra Costa school district, I completely understand the community's response toward their trust of the superintendent and the school board members.

What the community is forgetting, however, is the rise in test scores of our students due to the many staff members at their neighborhood schools. Students are learning because teachers, classroom aides, counselors, custodians, clerks, principals, and everyone cares about every student succeeding.

They have succeeded because they have access to appropriate textbooks, opened libraries, instructional classroom aids, nurturing counselors, and caring coaches.

This success is now dependent upon the ability of the registered voters of this district to pass Measure B on June 8.

The state may well be incapable of assisting our district with any additional revenue to balance our budget for the next fiscal year and the next few years. However, this measure has been written with specific guidelines on how and where the funds are spent.

I encourage concerned citizens to become involved on the oversight committee to be sure all money is spent appropriately, according to the text of the measure.

Cathy Caudell  
Pinole

Caudell is the president of the office and technical unit of Public Employees Local One.

Tom Smithberger  
El Cerrito



## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons are offering free tax help for taxpayers with middle and low incomes, with special attention to those 60 years and older, at the Albany Library from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays through April. Make appointments at the library's Reference Desk.

The Albany Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library, is located at 1247 Marin Ave. Information: 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

Registration is open for the spring series of preschool storytimes at the El Cerrito Library, which begin on April 8 and continue through May 13. Babytime lapsit for babies under age 2 will meet on Thursday mornings at 10:30. Toddler time for toddlers ages 2-3 will meet on Thursday mornings at 11:30, and Picture Book Time for preschoolers ages 3-5 will meet on Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m. Parents should be aware that space is limited and registration is required for all these programs.

Also at El Cerrito: Author Mona Mock Wyman will appear for a discussion and reading at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13. Mock Wyman is the author of "Chop-lick Childhood," a moving memoir that casts new light on a little-known Bay Area institution: the Ming Quong Home Orphanage.

Connie Lynch, author of "Don't Lose Your Mind," will appear Monday, April 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Brother Brendan Madden of St. Mary's College will appear at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, for a program entitled "Dream Interpretation, Past, Present and Future." Madden has studied and practiced dream interpretation

for the past 12 years and has studied at the Jungian Institute of Zurich as well as Oxford University.

Also at El Cerrito: The library hosts a special program for National Library Week: The Three Penny Players will tell and act out funny and exciting children's stories at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 24, for children 3 and up.

Readers Anonymous, the library's book club, meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The club will discuss "Peace Like a River," by Leif Enger, on April 27. Next up: "Big Stone Gap," by Adriana Trigiani (May 25). Copies of the current selection are available at the check-out desk.

The El Cerrito Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

Children up to age 12 can play "How Many Eggs in the Spring Basket?" at the Kensington Library. The child with the closest guess wins the basket of candy eggs. Guesses will be accepted from Monday, April 5, through Saturday, April 10, and the winner will be called between 4 and 5 p.m. April 10.

Family Storytimes for all ages are held at 7 p.m. Tuesdays (except when special programs are scheduled).

The Kensington Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

## EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

**CHESS AT EL CERRITO:** Rico Atkins, who once taught history at Portola and now is at Hercules Middle High School, and The Berkeley Chess School want to form a chess team for El Cerrito High. According Mr. Atkins, the district wants the schools to form a team and compete. There is a trophy to be awarded to the winning high school. First competition is Saturday, April 3. Interested? E-mail Delicia Moghadam at [Deemoghadam@aol.com](mailto:Deemoghadam@aol.com)

**2004-05 CALENDAR:** The West Contra Costa schools calendar is now available at <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/calendar/calendar0405.htm>

— WCCUSD and El Cerrito High e-mail tree

## Library reference desk expands to cyber space

Quote of the week:

"The public library has been historically a vital instrument of democracy and opportunity in the United States ... Our history has been greatly shaped by people who read their way to opportunity and achievements in public libraries."

— Arthur M. Schlesinger, 1888-1965



JULIE WINKELSTEIN  
At the Library

ploring a Web site at the same time, so the virtual librarian can give instructions on how to click on a link or what can be found on a particular page. If print material seems more appropriate, it can be faxed to the patron or the patron can be referred to a local library for a specific resource. At the end of the session, a transcript of the interaction is provided so the user can have a record of all the information.

Many California library systems provide virtual reference, including Alameda and Contra Costa counties, using a service called "Ask Now," available through the libraries' Web sites. It is especially popular with teens who need homework help.

The people who provide this service include public librarians, as well as specialists in

such topics as law and medicine. Because "Ask Now" is part of a larger organization, "24/7," patrons who use this service can get help at any hour of the day. Since studies — and experience — have shown that many students need help in the middle of the night, this is a wonderful component.

Part of me is horrified by this concept, since I believe in libraries as buildings, full of books. But I also see its importance, especially for students who may not have someone to help them with their homework questions. In fact, another aspect of the virtual reference is something called a white board, where the librarian and the student can draw and see each other's work — particularly handy for math and even science questions.

What appeals to me most about "Ask Now" or any of these virtual reference desks is the opportunity to spread it to other groups, besides teens. People who have difficulty getting to a library or whose work schedules don't fit in with the library hours are good examples. Of course, I will point out that a virtual reference desk is

n't intended to replace the reference desk of a local library — it is no substitute for a face-to-face interaction. But it can expand the services a library can provide — and that's always a good thing.

**READER REVIEW:** Tim reviewed Bruce Moody's "Will Work for Food or \$: A Memoir from the Roadside."

Tim says "This nonfiction book is a moving recounting of Mr. Moody's experience panhandling near the Apian Way exit off I-80. After losing his job at the age of 60, Moody, a college graduate, resorted to holding a sign offering his labor for food or money ... Moody encountered incredible generosity during his months on the roadside, and also learned ... the value of offering blessings to all without expecting anything in return. Clear succinct prose that will surely make a reader think ... about the person holding a sign by the roadside."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@ac-library.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@ac-library.org) or at the Albany Library.

## ALBANY PTA NEWS

## Albany Education Foundation

April 25, Scoops for Schools, Free Ice Cream Social, 1-4 p.m., Albany Community Center, to volunteer call Sally Outis at 510-558-6823 or [outis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:outis@sbcglobal.net)

## Albany High School

Receive the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Linda Okamoto at [ltokam@earthlink.net](mailto:ltokam@earthlink.net) April 7, AHS Chapter of Albany Music Fund Meeting: 7 p.m., AHS Library. Scrip orders: call Norm Rossman at 510-558-0418, e-mail: [norm@normski.com](mailto:norm@normski.com)

## Albany Middle School

Receive the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Frances Santiago at [santiagofrances@hotmail.com](mailto:santiagofrances@hotmail.com) April 1, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library. Scrip Orders: Call Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: [dorothybrown@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothybrown@yahoo.com)

Reminder: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

## Cornell Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at [gradayer@aol.com](mailto:gradayer@aol.com) Scrip orders: Call Mark Priven 510-528-2082 or e-mail: [privenwest@pacbell.net](mailto:privenwest@pacbell.net)

## Marin Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail. Kym Sterner at [kymsterner@earthlink.net](mailto:kymsterner@earthlink.net) Scrip Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 or e-mail: [h.class@att.net](mailto:h.class@att.net) Paper Scrip for sale in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

## Warehouse/Annex Auction

Monday, April 5, 11am  
Preview: Sunday, April 4, 9am-4pm  
& Day of Sale at 9am  
Next to the Alameda Point Antiques & Collectibles Fair  
Auctions By The Bay, Inc.  
510-740-0220  
[www.auctionsbaythebay.com](http://www.auctionsbaythebay.com)  
board # M306666

Reminder 1: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.  
Reminder 2: Recycle printer cartridges in office.

## Ocean View Elementary

Scrip Orders: Call Laurie Amaro at 510-525-0476

RECYCLE used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library.

## AUSD Board of Education

April 6, Special Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room April 7, Special Meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell MPR

## AUSD Calendar

April 12-16, Spring Break (No School)

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: [kayweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:kayweinstein@yahoo.com)

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Stop by to say hi to Rosie and Pete Medina who will be celebrating a Decade at the market this Summer.

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Alameda Journal  
HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Rotary Club of Alameda, East Bay Regional Park District, and Alameda Recreation and Parks proudly present...

**SPRING EGG SCRAMBLE** FREE!

Everyone Welcome!  
Bring the entire family to this very special community event.

**Saturday, April 3, 2004**  
(Rain Out Date: April 10, 2004)

**PRE-EGG HUNT ACTIVITIES**  
Start at 11:00 a.m.

**EGG HUNT SCRAMBLE**  
Begins at 12:30 p.m.

**ROBERT CROWN MEMORIAL BEACH**  
(Grass area on Otis/Westline Drive) FREE!

• Enjoy Arts 'N Crafts  
• Take a photo with the Bunny (\$3 per photo)  
• Scramble for Eggs and much, much more!  
Hot dogs, chips and sodas available for purchase.

EBRPD invites you to attend the Crab Cove Visitor Center Rededication and Open House (Saturday, April 3rd only) 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Questions regarding Crab Cove?  
Contact EBRPD at (510) 635-0135  
For further information about Spring Egg Scramble, contact Alameda Recreation and Parks, (510) 747-PLAY.  
No Registration Necessary

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Kedem Concord Grape Juice 22oz.....	\$2.89
Streits Macaroons Assorted 10oz.....	\$3.99
Beaver Kosher Horseradish—Red or White 4oz.....	\$1.59



# Calendar

**Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1909 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to [afields@cctimes.com](mailto:afields@cctimes.com) or fax to 510-339-4066.**

## Children

■ **Albany First Baptist Church**, 1319 Solano Ave., presents "Easter Carnival," from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 3. The event includes a day of family fun, making crafts, playing carnival games, and a rummage sale. Snacks or lunch will be available for purchase in the cafeteria. Tickets for games and activities will be available for purchase at the door. Proceeds go to support children outreach programs. 510-526-6632.

■ **The Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., continues its new spring **pre-school storytime** series through April 24, every Saturday at 11 a.m. The program is free. 510-526-3720.

■ **Anna Belle Panish** offers preschool drama activity for children ages 2½ to 5 years with parents at Toy-Ground, 1361 Solano Ave., Albany. Children will "try on" characters and engage in group dramatic activity. Drop in, held monthly on third Tuesday. No charge. Anna Belle at 510-527-1437.

■ **Children's Social Skills and Manners** workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-6202.

■ **Teen Support Group** meets twice a

month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. 531-7551.

■ Check out books from the **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library**. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 848-0237.

■ **El Cerrito** offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. 215-4371.

■ **The Ann Martin Children's Center** offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

## Class

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive, presents its annual **Unsett Lecture: "What's Up Down Under"** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 4. Explore the fascinating subterranean hemisphere of the hidden half of plants.

Lecturers: UC Berkeley Professor of Plant Biology, Dr. Lewis Feldman. Become acquainted with functions roots perform in addition to anchoring plants and absorbing water and nutrients. Lecture concludes with a walk through the Garden to observe root diversity. Free with Garden admission. Information and registration: 510-643-2755 [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers classes in ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). Classes are on-going and always welcome new members. Seniors over 50 are welcome. Tuesdays at 9:30, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Details: 845-6830.

■ **South Berkeley Senior Center** 2939 Ellis St., offers a free aerobics, stretching, strengthening fitness class for adults 55+. The class is taught by Naomi Puro. For more information, call 510-981-5170.

## Community

■ The annual "Stomp the Stumps" benefit for the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters (BACH) and Earth First! takes place 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. April 2, at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. (at Gilman). Admission: Sliding scale, \$10-\$20. All ages venue, kids under 12 for free). Wheelchair access. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com). For advance tickets: [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

■ **Albany First Baptist Church**, 1319 Solano Ave., presents "Easter Carni-

vall" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 3. The event includes family fun, making and playing carnival games, and a rummage sale. Snacks or lunch can be purchased in the cafeteria. Tickets for games and activities will be available for purchase at the door. Proceeds go to support children outreach programs. For more information, call 510-526-6632.

■ **The Berkeley City Club** and the Landmark Heritage Foundation, are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the legacy of Julia Morgan. Take a free docent-led tour of the Berkeley City Club on the fourth Sunday each month except December, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tours are free; donations are welcome. The Berkeley City Club is located at 2315 Durant Avenue (two blocks from Telegraph Avenue). For group reservations or more information, call 510-848-7900 or 510-883-9710.

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive, presents its **Spring Bulb Bonanza** through April 15. The Bonanza takes place during usual Garden Shop hours 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Garden offers a special large collection of bulbs from around the world either blooming or ready to bloom this year, all at incredibly low prices. For more information and registration, call 510-643-2755 or visit the Web site at [botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu).

■ **Charcot Marie Tooth** support group meets quarterly from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Albany Library, 1247 Marine Ave. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. For more information, call Gail Whitehead.

See CALENDAR, Page A6



LAURA RISK/CONTRIBUTED

**ACCLAIMED SCOTTISH** fiddler Laura Risk will appear in concert to celebrate the release of her new CD "Two Thousand Miles" in a concert at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse on Friday, April 16 at 8 p.m. She will be joined by Steve Baughman, pioneering fingerstyle guitarist, for an evening of Celtic tunes. Freight & Salvage is at 1111 Addison St., and the box office can be reached at 510-548-1761. Tickets are \$16.50 advance/\$17.50 at the door. For more information, visit [www.thefreight.org](http://www.thefreight.org).

## Divorce, Custody, Support

### DIVORCE BASICS WORKSHOP

April 13 - Men only  
April 14 - Women only  
7:00 pm

Location is confidential to protect your privacy.

At this workshop you will find out:

- How to divide separate and community property
- How to select and manage your attorney
- What to do before you tell your spouse
- Where to get the forms you need
- What you need to know before you settle
- What milestones appear in every case
- What tax issues will affect you
- What property you have a right to keep ...and much more.

Call now 865-6664

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Space is limited

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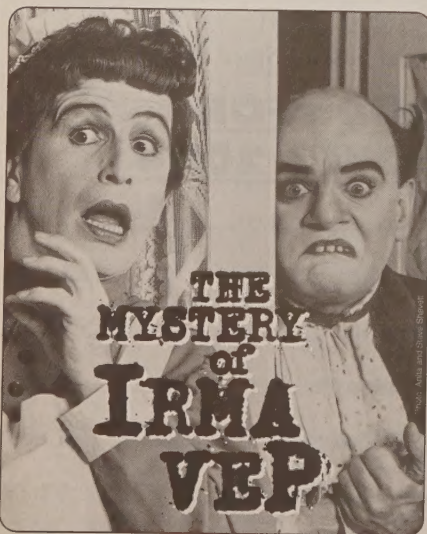
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## City of Alameda Presents Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 24, 2004  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Washington Park

(Central Ave & 8th St, Alameda)

Games Entertainment Prizes  
Food Kids Activities Live Music  
Environmental Information Free Compost

Come celebrate the Earth Day Festival. Enjoy free activities for the kids. Earth Day games and exhibits and learn about building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come. Free bike parking. AC Transit accessibility. Free parking available at Robert Crown Memorial parking lot.

For more information, call the Alameda Recreation and Parks at (510) 747-7529 or the Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division Hotline at (510) 749-5897.

Sponsored by:

Alameda Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division,  
Alameda County Industries, Bike Alameda, Alameda Power & Telecom,  
and Alameda Recreation and Parks

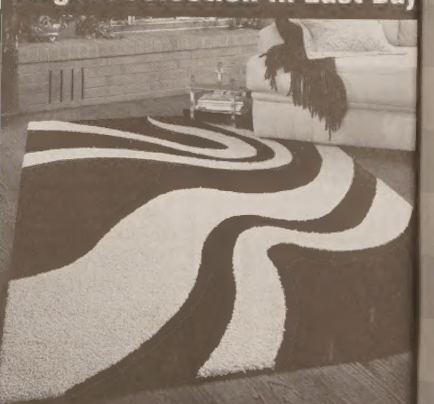


Alameda Journal  
HILLS NEWSPAPERS

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## Calendar

FROM PAGE A8

more information, call Gail Whitehouse at 408-425-5629.

■ **The Judah L. Magnes Museum**, 2911 Russell St., presents the exhibit "Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum" through April 25. Hours: Open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Jewish and federal holidays. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-549-6950.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ **TOPS** (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ **Turning Point at the YWCA**, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum**, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 642-0808.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 863-6708 for details.

## Exhibits

■ **The color photography of Stephen Palmer**, UC Berkeley professor of Cognitive Science, will be on display in an exhibit entitled "The Art of Perception" at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, from through April 18. These photographs highlight unusual visual situations such as geometric structure and symmetry in natural patterns and striking color contrasts between figure and ground. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday. A reception for the artist will be held Jan. 25 from 4-6 p.m.

■ **The exhibit Early Women of Berkeley** (1878-1953) and their organizations runs through March 27. The exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, celebrates how women shaped Berkeley's history, working alone and through their clubs. A women's history lecture series is also planned. At the Berkeley History Center, 1931 Center St. Details: 848-0181. Admission free.

## Film/dance/stage

■ **Film Festival: "Promotion of Universal Respect"** sponsored by United Nations Association—USA East Bay Chapter at Pacific Film Archive Theater, from 7 to 10 p.m. April 5, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley (U.C. Berkeley campus). Three documentaries dealing with Iran, Canada, Russia and the U.S. will showcase: "The Tree That Remembers" (Iran/Canada) 7:55 p.m.; "From Chechnya To Chernobyl" (Russia/USA) 8:40 p.m.; "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" (USA). Admission: \$8 students, \$10. Details: UNA-USA East Bay, 510-849-1752; www.unausaestbay.org, or www.unaff.org.

■ **Learn easy international folk dances**, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525-1130.

■ **Friday Night Folk Dancing**: 8 p.m.-11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary—all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

■ **Family Folkdancing** takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ **Swing Dance Classes!** Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime

Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2580 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

## Health

■ **YWCA Health and Community Education**: drop in classes in **dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts** and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

## Learning

■ **The Berkeley City Club**, 2315 Durant Ave., a non-profit private social club, offers a **weekly yoga class** for seniors from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday's. The class taught by Rosie Linsky, who at age 72, has practiced yoga for over 40 years. Open to non-members for \$8 a class. For more information, call Karen Ray, at 848-7800.

■ **Berkeley Adult School** offers **ceramics classes** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays at the St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave. Classes are free, materials and firing charges are not. Lunch is offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohn at 525-5497.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** in Berkeley offers classes in exercise, hand-built ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing and tap dancing. There are speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations once a month. Classes are on-going. New members and seniors over 50 are always welcome. Lunch and friendly conversation are offered at a minimal charge. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. Call 845-6830 for time and schedules.

■ **Beginning Internet Workshops** take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet mouse skills, email, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up.

■ **The Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., offers free, ongoing **chess instruction** Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play.

This program is led by David Pruess, who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teachers in California. All levels are welcome and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **Folkdance classes**, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library.) Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. Details: Mel Harte, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

■ **Assets Senior Employment** offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554.

## Meetings/lectures

■ **The El Cerrito Garden Club** will hold its regular meeting 9:30 a.m. April 8, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito. Speaker is Kaye Rosso, docent of the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Topic: "Propagation of Succulents." Guests welcome. \$3 at door. For details call Mae at 510-234-0135 or Marilynne at 510-223-0443.

■ **BEST** (Berkeley Ecological and Safe Transportation) will host a panel discussion of **Car-Free Housing** at their membership meeting from 6-8 p.m. April 6, at the Central Berkeley Library branch, corner Kittredge and Shattuck, 3rd floor meeting room. Learn what Car-Free Housing is. Come to question and debate. Public is welcome. Free. Im-green03@comcast.net. Marcy Greenhut 510-652-9462

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don, 510-525-3565 or www.berkeleycameraclub.org.

■ **Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung** classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65, 268-4995.



**LA PEÑA CULTURAL CENTER**, 3105 Shattuck Ave., hosts the Afro-Latin music of the John Santos Quintet, on Saturday, April 3, at 8 p.m. Grammy nominee Santos brings together a quintet featuring Orestes Vilato (timbal, bongo), Saul Sierra (bass), Mel Diaz (piano) and Orlando Torriente (vocals) to perform repertoire which draws from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the U.S. Tickets are \$12 advance and \$14 at the door. Details: 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

## Music

■ **Jazzschool**, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, hosts **Sunday Night Jam Sessions** every Sunday, 7:30-10 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome to sit in. Free. Call 510-845-5373 or swing@jazzschool.com

■ **Ray Obiedo's Urban Latin Jazz Project** featuring Pete Escovedo, takes place at 4:30 p.m. April 4, Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. Joining Obiedo are flute and saxophonist Melcio Magdaluyo; trumpeter Bill Ortiz; pianist Rose Ann Dimalanta; bassist Marc van Wageningen; drummer Paul van Wageningen; percussionist Derek Rolando; and very special guest, the great Pete Escovedo, on timbales. Admission: \$18, \$15, \$12. Call 510-845-5373 or swing@jazzschool.com for more details.

## Religion

■ **Passover Seder** will be held at wood Gardens, 2951 Derby St., Berkeley, 8 p.m. April 5. \$40 adults; \$15 children under 12. Advance paid reservation required. Visa/Master accepted. Sponsored by Chabad East Bay. Details: 510-540-5824.

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# Boring

FROM PAGE A1

for guidance. That discourages rezoning Kains and Adams Avenue into "Pablo Commercial" zoning, residents feared would have a detrimental effect on their neighborhood.

About 130 people attended a meeting and zoning meeting in March 29, about 15 people attended the latest in a series of meetings that have addressed the zoning issue.

A growing consensus appears emerging, though some residents are eager for the commission to hurry up and finalize its recommendations to the City Council, which is charged to

There's a point at which this could be the never-ending story,"

resident Joan Larson said.

Further frustrating residents was a new topic brought up Monday night: the possibility of rezoning San Pablo Avenue near Buchanan Street where University Village is located, to make the zoning consistent with UC Berkeley's plans to put commercial businesses there. A final decision was not made.

Otherwise, the commission went over a series of detailed changes to the zoning code and general plan that have emerged over its meetings on the subject.

Time ran out before the commission could address height limits, floor-area ratios (the amount of occupied space to empty space on a lot) or "daylight planes," which sets limits on how a building is located on a property.

Those subjects will be addressed the commission's April 20 meeting, said planning department consultant Ed Phillips.

Also scheduled to begin in 2005 is the reconstruction of El Cerrito High School, using \$89 million from the \$348 million available from Measure D, and the renovation of Portola Middle School.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at [alopez1@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez1@cctimes.com).

# elay

FROM PAGE A1

throughout the district, bond money from Measure B is scheduled to be used for renovations using money that bond measure begins this summer.

## hours for building, planning division

city's building, planning engineering division has changed its customer service and will offer appointments for larger and more complex projects in the afternoon. The drop-in counter will open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday and other Friday. Appointments will be held from 2 p.m. Monday and every

other Friday; and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. The counter will be closed 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call the building division at 510-215-4360, the planning division at 510-215-4330 or the engineering division at 510-215-4382.



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

WHILE THE PERMITS, plans and other paperwork stacks up, working in the El Cerrito Planning Department is "never boring," says planning assistant Betsy Cazden, who is taking early retirement after 20 years with the city.

## Retire

FROM PAGE A1

she said are creative people. And the variety and consistency of projects has kept the job interesting.

"It's constant, it's never boring and you don't know who's going to walk through the door," she said.

Over 20 years, she's seen the city change and said she feels like it's in better shape. There are places to shop at El Cerrito Plaza,

the new pool is a gem and San Pablo Avenue is showing improvement, she said. Many people are applying to make additions to their homes, making the city look even better.

Originally from Massachusetts, Cazden attended UC Berkeley and subsequently remained in that city. After raising three children, she began working part-time at the recycling center in Berkeley then started working for El Cerrito after a full-time position opened.

She plans to take classes in

horticulture and enjoy her new free time.

"I don't see myself sitting around, but I would like to have more free time to do as I chose," she said. "That would be nice."

She was planning to retire next year but is taking advantage of a city offer to increase her pension in exchange for retiring early.

Also taking an early retirement is public works director Dan Clark, who has been with the city for about two years. At a recent City Council meeting,

City Councilwoman Janet Abelson praised him as being the right man for El Cerrito at the right time, overseeing a number of public works projects.

Added community development director Jill Keimach: "He's really turned around the city in a short amount of time, accomplished a lot — street projects, resurfacing, public improvements — and he's been a pleasure to work with."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or [alopez1@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez1@cctimes.com).

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N75			28-100mm f/3.5-5.6D Zoom	\$10	\$20
N7500			28-105mm f/3.5-4.5D Zoom	\$100	\$200
D100			35-70mm f/2.8D Zoom	\$40	\$80
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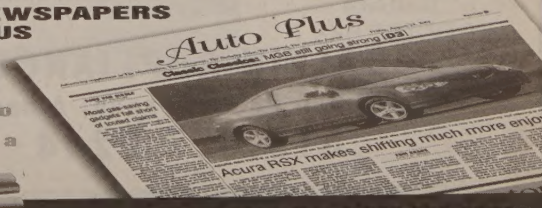
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# Couple find passion in fund-raising lessons

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Ann Lehman and her business partner Robert Zimmerman are so in tune with each other, they finish each other's jokes during their workshops. They have different but complementary styles.

"He sounds like a college professor and I sound like a neighbor giving you advice," Lehman said.

When they decided to write a book, it was mostly Lehman's project and it was her job to put it together. Zimmerman, who is considered the more detail-oriented of the two, read through the manuscript, fixed the grammar and otherwise changed things he didn't like.

"He's probably the fastest typist anywhere," Lehman said. "He's a born editor and I'm mildly dyslexic, so we need each other."

There's another reason they work so well together: They've been married for 13 years.

That professional and personal partnership has resulted in the book published by San Francisco publisher Jossey-Bass: "Boards That Love Fundraising: A How-to Guide for Your Board."

The book is the culmination of years of experience by the couple, whose firm — Zimmerman Lehman — has been offering advice, workshops and consulting services to nonprofit organizations since 1988.

The book gives advice to nonprofit organizations on how to raise money. There was \$241 billion given to 1.4 million charitable organizations in 2002, the book says.

There's a lot of money available but the problem is that many nonprofits don't do their best to go after it, Zimmerman said.

"Many board members, volunteers and staff members view fundraising as 'genteel begging' rather than as creating opportunities for citizens to invest in successful enterprises through philanthropic contributions," the book states.

The problem is that "board and staff members don't ask for money effectively, they don't ask often enough and sometimes they don't ask — period. Every year billions of dollars that could be invested in the nonprofit sector are lost because organizations aren't asking properly."

The book is a user-friendly soft-cover workbook providing information on how to more effectively

## ZIMMERMAN LEHMAN

More information about the Zimmerman Lehman consulting firm can be found at [www.zimmerman-lehman.com](http://www.zimmerman-lehman.com), or call 510-527-5724

tively raise money. The key, said Zimmerman, is thinking of the non-profit as a service to the community — which, of course, is what it's supposed to be.

"Donors want to see organizations run like a business," Zimmerman explained. "That they're evaluating their activities, that they're cost-effective."

Continued Lehman: "If more boards trained and more nonprofits had different attitudes about the work they did, they could all raise more money."

Much of the content of the book is based on smaller books written by the couple for their workshops. How difficult the book was to write came as a surprise, said Lehman.

However, like almost everything in their lives, the book came to fruition as the result of their life and business partnership.

The two met in 1988, when Lehman, who has been the executive director of two nonprofit organizations, took one of Zimmerman's fund-raising workshops, shortly after he started his firm. They married in 1991, have a 10-year-old son, Gabriel Zimmerman Lehman, a dog, Stella and an affectionate kitten, Betty.

They complement each other well, Lehman said. In general, she looks at the firm's big picture, while her husband examines the details and does the necessary schmoozing.

"Bob's enthusiasm is hard to resist," Lehman said. "There aren't many people who love fund-raising as much as Bob. I love building the community, he loves instilling confidence that you can go out and do this."

"He makes it (fund-raising) seem very doable, very easy. It isn't easy actually, but he makes it seem easy. He takes the mystery out of it."

Zimmerman got into the nonprofit field after becoming a grant writer for a nonprofit organization in Boston in the early 1970s. He has been the director of development at a variety of nonprofit organizations, including an independent living center for physically disabled people in Los An-



Ann Lehman and Bob Zimmerman wrote the book "Boards That Love Fundraising."

geles and a national public interest law office in San Francisco. He started the nonprofit consulting firm in 1988.

Lehman is a lawyer and has been working in the public interest arena for 25 years. She's directed an alternative bar association in New York City; worked as a senior policy analyst on women, girls and human rights; and was the executive director of a public interest law office specializing in issues affecting seniors.

Locally, the couple is also working together to raise money for the renovations of the Cerrito Theater.

Together with Dianne Brenner, Lehman is heading the steering committee for the Friends of the Cerrito Theater, which is raising \$200,000 over two years to fund historic elements of the theater. The fund-raising effort has recently

begun in earnest with a mailing to residents urging them to contribute.

Her husband examined the letter before it went out, Lehman said. And then he rewrote it.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at [alopez1@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez1@cctimes.com).

# Unusual approach for vote on parks

By Mike Taugher  
STAFF WRITER

Contra Costa open space officials soon will try a novel fundraising approach to raise \$175 million for parks they say will be needed to stave off sprawl.

By using a taxing method traditionally used to pay for street lighting, public landscaping, water mains and the like, the plan dodges the usual two-thirds vote for new taxes. Instead, just property owners will vote.

If successful, Contra Costa would become the third place in California where the unconventional tax, called a benefits assessment district, is used to buy and maintain open spaces on a regional scale. The others are around the Santa Monica Mountains in Southern California and in Santa Clara County.

Although the method has proven controversial with taxpayer groups, it so far has withstood legal challenges. In October, a Santa Clara Superior Court judge tossed out a lawsuit against that region's open space authority. That case is on appeal with a decision expected in mid-summer, according to the Santa Clara open space agency.

Meanwhile, ballots could begin hitting Contra Costa mailboxes in early June. Rules for benefit assessments are complex, but most homeowners would pay about \$25 per year if the measure passes. Businesses are likely to pay more.

Votes are weighted according to the amount of tax a property owner pays, and the measure passes if a majority of those weighted ballots approve.

"This is our shot at how we're going to save the last great wild places in Contra Costa County," said Ron Brown, executive director of Save Mount Diablo.

The foothills and flanks on the east side of Mount Diablo, for example, are perceived by many residents

to be publicly owned lands. But some of it is privately owned and could be developed.

If the assessment money would be used to buy land throughout the county, the shorelines, Tassajara Valley, county agricultural areas, Lamorinda, not to mention parks and special trail and museum projects. Of the \$175 million, one-fourth would go to maintaining parks. The assessments would sunset in 30 years.

"What we do to purchase and open spaces is going to have a footprint for what this looks like four or five generations from now," Brown said.

Contra Costa Taxpayers' Association director Kris Hunt, an organization has questioned is awaiting an engineer's report that will assign taxes to parcels before taking a firm position.

Timothy Brittle, an attorney with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association, which sued the Contra Costa open space agency, was unfamiliar with the Contra Costa proposal.

Money available under the local parks bond — passed by the East Bay Regional Park District — is nearly all spent on committed to specific projects.

And the park district's attempts to raise taxes for maintenance failed.

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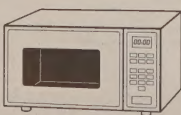
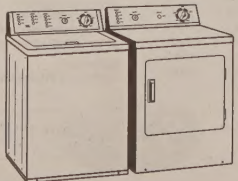
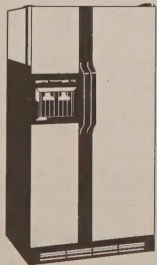
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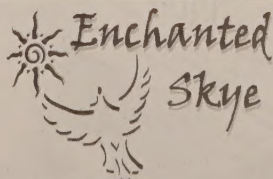
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# Real Estate & Home

Friday supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, April 2, 2004

Section B

## What are the pros, cons of accepting contingent sale offers?

Seller may raise price to meet potential risk

NIMAN NEWS  
For years, sellers flat out rejected contingent-sale offers. Now, buyers are finding sellers receptive to offers that are contingent on the sale of another property.

Sellers don't like contingent-sale offers because they tend to be more than offers that aren't dependent on another home selling. The fear is that buyers might not sell at all. In this event, sellers could waste time while the home is off the market and looking for a new buyer.

In a real estate market that's going full steam ahead, there's little room for contingent-sale offers. On the demand for listings outside supply, sellers can easily find contingent buyers with whom to negotiate. Why accept a less-than-offer if you don't have to? However, when the market is as it has in some areas and home price ranges, sellers can't be as choosy.

Recently, a seller of a home in Montclair, Calif., decided to take advantage on a contingent-sale offer. The seller had previously rejected two offers, both for less than the asking price. She rejected offers.



**DIAN HYMER**  
House Hunting

Eventually, a full-price offer appeared. The seller accepted it, even though it was contingent on the sale of the buyer's home. In this case, the seller was willing to accept higher risk in return for a higher price. This is often the case.

Another property in a desirable neighborhood of Oakland, recently sold to a contingent-sale buyer. The property was priced well-over \$1 million, which is a slower price range in this area. After months on the market with no action, the seller decided to give a contingent-sale buyer a chance.

So, a benefit to a seller of accepting a contingent-sale offer is that you might receive a higher price than you would from a buyer who doesn't have to sell in order to buy. On the buyer's side of the equation, you may have to pay more to entice a seller into accepting a contingent-sale offer.

It may be worth it to the buyers to pay more for the security of knowing that they won't end up owning two homes at the same time. With a contingent-sale offer, if

A benefit to a seller of accepting a contingent sale offer is that you might receive a higher price than you would from a buyer who doesn't have to sell in order to buy.

your home doesn't sell, you aren't obliged to buy the other home.

However, if the sellers insist that your contingent-sale offer include a release clause, you risk losing the house to another buyer if your home doesn't sell in time. A release clause allows the sellers to continue marketing their home until you remove your sale contingency from the contract.

Suppose the sellers accept an offer in backup position. If there's a release clause in the contract, the sellers can notify you that you must remove your contingency within a certain time frame (often 72 hours). Otherwise, you will have to withdraw and the home will go to the backup buyers.

Another drawback to contingent-sale buyers is that they may feel pressured to sell quickly in order to keep from losing the home they

### Real Estate Spotlight:

## Piedmont home has hand-crafted touches



**THE ELEGANT PIEDMONT MEDITERRANEAN AT 24 MARLBOROUGH COURT** was built by J.W. Scammell in 1932. Scammell built several homes in the Oakland/Piedmont area and all of them had distinguishing characteristics. He would take full advantage of the setting and use only the best tile-setters, plumbing fixture companies and window sash suppliers. As noted in a marketing booklet for one of his Oakland developments, Scammell homes had sturdy construction, lasting quality and individuality of type and design. Leaded glass windows, wrought iron bannisters and colorful hand-crafted ceramic tiles in window boxes and bathrooms were other Scammell trademarks. Not only does this home exude the Scammell charm and trademark detailing throughout, it also has an updated kitchen and family room addition with wood burning stove and dual paned windows. There are four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Lovely gardens and wonderful views surround this prime property.

Price: \$2,650,000.

Listing agent: Charlotte Boyle, Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate, 510-338-1370.

want to buy. This could mean accepting a lower price.

Sellers who accept contingent-sale offers should make sure that the buyers' home is salable and that

it will be listed at a reasonable price. In some areas, the lower priced market is selling much more quickly than the \$1 million-plus market.

**THE CLOSING:** In this case, it

may be worth it to a seller to accept a contingent-sale offer from a motivated and realistic buyer who has a house to sell that's in a more desirable price range.

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### BY APPOINTMENT

**Berkeley** \$7,250,000  
Spring Mansion. 9 BR 4.5 BA This home is listed on the California Historical Registry. The estate includes second house w/ 3BR/3BA, 2 guest cottages & tennis court.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



**Piedmont** \$1,225,000  
New Listing. 4 BR 3 BA Charming Piedmont Traditional w/Bay views & centrally located. Fam rm adjacent to updated kitchen w/French doors and private garden.  
Haideh Chew 510.339.4700

**West Oakland** \$1,200,000  
Two buildings & lot! One building is a duplex. The other is a triplex with a storefront. Adjacent to it is a vacant lot. Call Gary or Noni for more info.  
Noni Robinson 510.339.4700



**Diamond District** \$639,000  
3 BR 2 BA Renovated 1920s ranch on over 1/4 acre landscaped lot w/Bay views! Spacious Living room w/fp, H/WF, laundry, Garage w/workshop.  
Adele M. Wong 510.339.4700

**Hercules** \$579,000  
Light & Bright Home. 5 BR 3 BA Great layout of 2,300 sq ft, elegant inviting lobby w/HWF, spacious LR, formal DR, Fam rm w/FP & wet bar. Cooks kitchen & breakfast nook.  
Elena Stone 510.339.4700

**Oakland** \$539,000  
5 BR 1.5 BA Grand Victorian built in 1896. Two parlors, formal dining room, original arch details, lovingly restored.  
Carolyn Devo 510.339.4700

**Montclair** \$479,000  
Creekside cottage blt in 1939 & added onto. Project not complete, but much of the ground work has been laid. 22+ study. Grt potential.  
Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700

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**Oakland** \$399,950  
House w/2 Living Areas. Each area includes: 3 BR, 1 BA, & spacious kit w/laundry. Fireplaces & Hardwood floors upstairs. Downstairs conversion w/o permits.  
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

**Oakland** \$299,950  
2 BR 1 BA. Cute & cozy home w/super R&R backyard. Split level home w/HWF & cozy FP. Upgraded Kit/Bath & tasteful fresh paint. Inside laundry.  
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

**Oakland** \$219,000  
1 BR 1 BA Starter Condo near Piedmont Ave. Nice street, clean unit.  
Victor Rallo 510.339.4700

### OPEN HOUSE



**Oakmore** \$2,300,000  
2201 Bywood Dr  
4 BR 4.5 BA Fabulous estate built in 1935. Sweeping views & beautiful grounds. Wonderful details.  
Terry Kulha 510.339.4700



**Oakland Hills** \$1,780,000  
5 Diablo Dr  
5 BR 5.5 BA New construction w/fabulous views! Gourmet kitchen, formal LR and DR. Interior courtyard.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700



**Claremont** \$1,650,000  
49 Vicente Pl  
5 BR 4.5 BA Mediterranean Villa. Great location! Bay views! 2yrs. new kitchen, formal LR/DR, Fam rm.  
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

### OPEN HOUSE

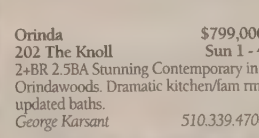


**Oakland** \$1,049,000  
2001 Rosecrest Dr.  
3 BR 2 BA Country living in the city! All level on approx half-acre. Updated Baths, space enchanting!  
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700

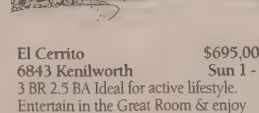
**Orinda** \$995,000  
65 Muth Drive  
4 BR 3 BA Ranch w/lng Fam rm & wet bar. Private setting w/beautiful vistas! level yrd, newer roof!  
George Karsant 510.339.4700



**Montclair** \$869,000  
6343 Fairlane Drive  
4 BR 4 BA Sweeping SF Bay views, indoor-outdoor living, private lvi bkyrd. Main living on one level.  
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700



**Orinda** \$799,000  
202 The Knoll  
2+BR 2.5BA Stunning Contemporary in Orindawoods. Dramatic kitchen/lam rm, updated baths.  
George Karsant 510.339.4700



**El Cerrito** \$695,000  
6843 Kenilworth  
3 BR 2.5 BA Ideal for active lifestyle. Entertain in the Great Room & enjoy panoramic 3 bridge view!  
Rita Zwierling 510.486.1495

### OPEN HOUSE



**Oakland** \$629,000  
2445 Burlington St.  
3 BR 2 BA Charming split level Span/Med w/hrd wd flrs, lam rm, fenced yard & storage! Cul-de-sac.  
Judy Acherman 510.339.4700



**Oakland** \$595,000  
457 Hudson St  
2 BR 1 BA Brown Shingle Craftsman Gem! Orig wood detail, inlaid H/WF, FDR, Updated kit, landsc yard.  
Vicky Faulk 510.339.4700



**Oakland** \$575,000  
3143 Wisconsin St  
2 BR 1.5 BA 1920s Med recently rehabbed-orig charm intact! 2+1/2 & office/Fam rm, gar, level yd & views.  
Rachel Baller 510.339.4700



**Glenview** \$499,000  
1367 E. 36th Street  
4 BR 2 BA Spacious remodeled 2-story craftsman in good area. Sunny LR, eat in kitchen & bonus rooms.  
Marilyn Garcia 510.486.1495



**Berkeley** \$439,000  
1542 Carleton St.  
Great Berkeley Bungalow! Many updates. Great bkyd w/bbq & hot tub. Add. space in rear.  
Barbara Allendorf 510.486.1495

### OPEN HOUSE

**Albany** \$338,250  
555 Pierce St  
1 BR 2 BA Studio rental option. GG, SF Bay view. Secure parking, swimming pool, spa & tennis court.  
James Brown 510.486.1495

**San Pablo Proper** \$285,000  
2200 California Ave.  
2 BR 1 BA What a gem! Clean and ready to move in. New paint, carpet, and fence. A must see!  
Benji Phillips 510.486.1495

**Oakland** \$279,000  
2240 82nd Avenue  
3 BR 1 BA Comfortable three bedroom, one bathroom bungalow home with a large backyard and workshop.  
Jeffrey Neideman 510.339.4700

### LOTS

**Oakland** \$549,000  
Permit-ready view lot. Plans for a custom home with views of San Francisco, the Bay and its bridges.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700

**Keller/Mountain** \$472,000  
View lot with barn! Lovely peaceful area with amazing potential! Call agent for details.  
Adele M. Wong 510.339.4700

**Over-sized lot for sale!** \$325,000  
View potential, easy down-slope construction.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700

**Piedmont Pines** \$299,000  
Down-slope lot with approved Plans.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700

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## Attorney should review easement rights

**Q.** We recently purchased a home as first-time homeowners. This property was sold as a zero tolerance boundary. The previous owner of our home and the neighbor lived next to each other for at least 13 years, but since our purchase the next-door property owners have stated a claim on this boundary line and now want to have an easement.

The easement has never been established since the development was built in 1979, and the property lines have been the same since it was initially built and purchased by the original homeowner. This information was known to them prior to our purchase.

I would like advice on how to handle this and what rights as new homeowners do we have.

— Joyce Scott, Rodeo, Calif.

A. I am not familiar with a

"zero tolerance boundary." The rest of your question deals with whether an easement exists over your property, where I assume your neighbors want to claim a right to cross your property for some purpose as they have done for the past 13 years. Depending on state law, they may have a right to continue to cross your property. The best thing that you can do is to contact a real estate lawyer and have them review the situation.

Also, in the sales disclosure there should have been something mentioned whereby an encumbrance on the property existed. (The seller should have known about a neighbor crossing their land.) As new homeowners, you purchased the rights the seller had. I would contact a lawyer to see what rights those are in this matter.

**Q.** We are interested in refinancing our mortgage and I just heard about MTA and COFI loans. I also understand there are two other types called CMT and a LIBOR, all of which appear to be better options than the fixed-rate mortgages with lower monthly payments. If so, I don't understand why more people don't do these loan programs.

Could you explain the benefits, pros and cons on any such loans? I'm a little skeptical of taking one of these loans without fully understanding how they work. What's the down side or when is a fixed rate better? We will be refinancing \$100,000 and our current interest rate is at 7.375 percent.

— Michael and Alea Thompson

A. These are all types of adjustable-rate mortgages:

In today's marketplace, you should be able to find a fixed rate that is historically very low (5 percent to 6 percent)

LIBOR is London Inter Bank Offer Rate, COFI is Cost Of Funds Index, MTA is Monthly Treasury Average, and CMT is Constant Maturity Treasury rate. Some are interest only, other are partially or fully amortizing.

In a nutshell, an adjustable-rate mortgage shifts interest rate risk from the lender to the borrower in return for the borrower having an initially lower cost of funds (interest rate). So, as a borrower, you would be better off in the short term by having an adjustable-rate mortgage because your interest costs are less, and you would be paying proportionately more toward principal reduction on the loan.

Additionally, many adjustable-rate mortgages are "fixed" for an extended initial

period (say the first three to five years). After that initial period, the rate can adjust based on a change in the "index." The items you mention (MTA, COFI, CMT and LIBOR) are the "indexes" that are the core of the actual interest rate that your mortgage payment is based upon.

In today's marketplace, you should be able to find a fixed rate that is historically very low (5 percent to 6 percent). These adjustable-rate loans will be lower (say 3.5 percent to 4.5 percent), but they could increase if interest rates in the economy start to move upward in the future.

In either case (adjustable or fixed), you will probably be better off refinancing your existing loan balance because you



**TOM HAMILTON**  
Real Estate Q&A

should be able to shave 175 basis points (1.75 percentage points) off your current mortgage. You can find sources of lenders for these types of loans on the Internet. Just use an Internet search engine and type in "adjustable rate mortgage" (i.e., LIBOR) and you will find numerous lenders.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Center for Real Estate at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. E-mail: tomhamilton@stthom.edu. Please include name, address and phone number.

## Pre-approval letters: Can you count on them?

In this area, virtually all offers to purchase residential property are accompanied by a pre-approval letter. Ostensibly, these letters "guarantee" a buyer will get the loan he needs. In fact, pre-approval letters can run the gamut from assurance of a loan to a quickly prepared note that is worthless. As a buyer or seller, knowing the difference will prevent potentially serious problems.

### From pre-qualification to pre-approval

Formerly common, a pre-qualification letter showed the buyer had "talked" with a lender and would likely be granted a loan. Over time, however, "pre-qual" letters have become less acceptable and pre-approval letters are now de rigueur.

Years ago, a pre-approval letter was a communication directly from the bank, or a mortgage broker working with the lender. It stated that all aspects of the buyer's ability to purchase had been verified and only a satisfactory appraisal and preliminary title report were necessary.

At one time, the pre-approval letter meant something. Unfortunately, many buyers, sellers, and their agents do not fully appreciate that today's pre-approval letters are often "faux-approval," not any better or more reliable than the now disparaged pre-qual.

**What to look for.** A comprehensive and effective pre-approval letter will state that the buyer has good credit and all funds necessary to close escrow are available. In most cases, his employment and income must also be confirmed.

**Call lender.** Prior to the seller accepting an offer, and with the premise that a pre-approval letter may or may not mean what it says, it is crucial for the listing agent to call whoever prepared it. When I do this for sellers, lenders frequently tell me they are surprised to hear from me.

Agents should ask, who is the lender making the loan? Mortgage brokers are middlemen; they arrange loans, but usually do not provide the money. If the lender has not been determined, and the mortgage broker is not also a mortgage banker, this clearly cannot be a pre-approval.

More questions to ask when calling: Has the source of funds been verified? Where are these monies? Are they liquid? The full story is not always what the buyer's agent presents or the lender writes.

At times, a buyer will be getting funds from a home equity loan, i.e., he does not have the cash and will need to borrow it. This could be fine if there is sufficient equity in the other home, but what if the buyer or property cannot qualify? In addition, has the loan been applied for, or if not, how long will it take? Now the seller must worry about the buyer getting two loans, not just one.

Similarly, if the buyer is counting on funds from a retirement plan, that could delay the close, or, possibly, prevent it if the money is not forthcoming.

Another possibility is that the buyer's cash is coming from another type of loan, such as a private one. If, for some reason, it does not come through, the buyer will not be able to complete the purchase.

Where money is coming from family, a letter from the one supplying the funds, along with written documentation of the cash, should be provided. A short time frame to transfer these assets to the buyer's account is prudent.

In the instances above, a competing buyer with less, but liquid, cash may be preferable.

### Lack of financing contingency

As those looking to buy continue to surpass available homes for sale, contracts written without loan contingencies have been increasing.

Agents tell their buyers that, in competition, a financing contingency could prevent them from getting the property they love. With pre-approval letter in hand, a growing number of Realtors omit this contingency without fully considering and explaining the possible consequences for both the buyer and seller. This is a bad trend because it is not working in the best interests of buyers or sellers. (See my article, "Unwritten Contingencies," on my Web site, [www.eastbay-realtor.com](http://www.eastbay-realtor.com).)

Most loans eventually close; however, unsuspecting buyers and sellers may be in jeopardy if they make irrevocable plans based on a pre-approval letter and the lack of a loan contingency. For example, if a naive buyer purchases a car during the transaction, he may no longer qualify for the loan.

The same could be true if the buyer suddenly loses his job and the lender, when doing a final audit before granting the loan, hears from the employer that the buyer's job will be ending soon. Likewise, if a previously unmentioned child support commitment surfaces before the loan funds the buyer might lose his financing.

If interest rates get back down to the 5% level and the refinance craze begins again, funding could be delayed. With a late close and no loan contingency, the buyer could be liable to the seller for damages. (See my article, "Loan Processing Paralysis Causing Delays," on my Web site, [www.eastbay-realtor.com](http://www.eastbay-realtor.com).)

Aside from losing a house you want to buy, what are the possible consequences of not getting a loan



**DON DUNNING**

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

when you have a pre-approval letter and no loan contingency? You may lose your deposit, or, depending on contract language, you might have additional liability. As a seller, your plans could be ruined, which could cost you money and heartache. In addition, you may end up with a much lower selling price when remarketing the home. In this regard, buyers and sellers should understand the Liquidated Damages clause in the contract. (See my article, "What Are Liquidated Damages?")

### Final thoughts

Some direct lenders (banks or mortgage bankers) may argue that, since they issue the loan themselves, without a middleman, my admonitions do not apply. Nonetheless, if questioned (and I have asked many) whether they "sometimes" write a pre-approval letter without full documentation, they confess to having done so. In those cases, their pre-approval letter is simply a gussied-up pre-qual letter.

For a topic that deserves full attention and disclosure, pre-approval letters are either not discussed or are glossed over by many real estate licensees. Should this matter to you? Yes, if, as a buyer or seller, you are counting on that lender to perform.

Don Dunning is a full-time Realtor and president of the Oakland Association of Realtors, 2004. He can be reached at 510-485-7239.

## Winans named to 101 best companies list

WINANS CONSTRUCTION

Winans Construction was named to the Reed Residential Group's second annual list of the 101 Best Companies To Work For in the Residential Construction Industry. The list appeared in the October 2003 issues of Professional Builder and Professional Remodeler magazines.

Employees of architects, builders and remodelers nominated their companies as a premier employer via the Internet, fax and mail. Nominated companies were asked to provide basic information about their operations, including employee statistics, offerings, benefits, and reasoning on why they provide a good place to work.

The Reed Research Group then surveyed a random sample of employees from each company about six key areas: rewards and recognition, professional development, leadership, communication, corporate culture, and personal satisfaction. The companies with the highest rankings were named to the list.

Winans Construction is a 25-year old firm specializing in residential remodeling in the East Bay. They have received nu-

merous local and national awards including the NAHB recognition for quality achievement in the remodeling industry — the coveted National modeling Quality Gold Award.

Co-owners Paul and Winans are both National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) Certified Remodelers. Paul has given seminars to homeowners for the past several years and was the From the Ground Up co-chair on construction for Hills 101. You can visit their site at [www.winansinc.com](http://www.winansinc.com).

The Reed Residential Group is: Professional Builder magazine, which serves 127,000 home builders and architects nationwide; Professional Remodeler magazine, which serves 63,400 remodelers nationwide; Luxury Home magazine, a supplement to Professional Builder; and Home Zone.com, the residential construction industry's premier site. The Reed Residential Group is part of Reed Business Information, which also owns Means and Reed Construction Data.

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**4907 Cochrane Avenue, Rockridge**  
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Wonderful traditional (circa 1995) built by Scott Cameron! Four bedrooms/two and one half baths, large kitchen/family room opening to a sunny deck and level garden. Attached two car garage. Close to BART! Rare and special!  
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Unit in 3-unit complex

Unit 2 is approximately 1,100 sq ft.

2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath

Large, sunny living room is

wired for stereo

Updated bathroom with

skylight and ceramic tile floors

Spacious, updated eat-in

kitchen with Pergo floors and

Jenn-Aire range/oven/grill

with built-in fan

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for cozy entertaining

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BERKELEY VOICE / THE JOURNAL / MONTCLARION

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# Real Estate Focus:

## Berkeley Hills home has Bay views



THIS NORTH BERKELEY HOME AT 40 ALTA ROAD is located high in the hills overlooking the Bay, with views of three bridges, and is near the Gourmet Ghetto, Solano Avenue shopping and Tilden Park. The serene gardens are Japanese inspired. This multi-level home is reminiscent of an Italian villa, perfect for entertaining, with outdoor space on a variety of decks. A flexible floor plan can accommodate many needs. There are four bedrooms, three baths, a family room, lots of closets and storage, plus additional rooms for development. Many upgrades are sensibly executed around the original design, but with a sound awareness of modern living. An internationally respected designer has decorated this home so that any new owners can easily express their own taste and style. This generous and gracious home is being lovingly maintained and offers a multitude of improvements. This property is truly a unique one that must be experienced with a personal visit.

Price: \$1,450,000. Open Saturday and Sunday, April 3-4, noon - 5 p.m.

Agents: Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate's Jeannie Anderson, 415-271-4887, and Exit Realty's Traci Reis, 510-677-6674.

## Age slows down the process

Number 458 in series of true experiences in real estate was late afternoon, and I'd come in from the garden. Working at the kitchen sink, mud off my hands, I'd, over the answering phone, a voice.

Do you ever really notice you're working in the garden? My friend Gretchen was getting, "that you're getting with wet hands, I picked up the phone. "Yes, yes!" I said. "My body is completely broken," said to Anet that I don't know how many more times I completely clean up my garden. "Yeah," my friend agreed. "The days are over when I'd be back inside after six. Why, I'd stay out sometimes after dark, turn on the rain. I even worked in the rain."

Do as much of my garden as I can while sitting down," I told. "Like today, I was

working in the front yard clearing old needles and pine cone slices and weeds. I sat down, lifted up branches and slid my little rake underneath to pull out the stuff." Gretchen shrieked, "That's how I do it now, too! I'm into micro gardening now. That's what I call it. I have my little rake and I work in a space maybe 3 feet in diameter at a time."

She sounded peeved. "I tell myself that every little bit counts."

Gretchen's garden is larger than mine, and her approach to it is bigger, too. I've been there many times watching as she set upon her beds. She lopped off errant branches, pulled out unwanted plants in their entirety. At the end of the day there was debris all around.

She liked this. She stood back and gazed at the products of her efforts with satisfaction, then bagged it all up, finally sweeping the edges clean. I've known her to carry out a bottle of champagne, perch herself at a vantage point, and celebrate.

"The thing is that I can't do

blitz gardening any more," Gretchen told me. "You know what I mean? I used to let things go until they looked really bad knowing that in one weekend I could blitz the place and get it all fixed again."

"We did everything blitz mode in the old days," I said. "Both of us thought nothing of painting a room after we got home from work."

"Or deep cleaning the whole house plus doing all our laundry in a day," said Gretchen. "Not to mention countless wooden doors, windows, and entire staircases, we've both stripped the paint off!"

"And remember the days when I was giving a party, and doing all the food, but didn't even begin thinking until the afternoon?" Gretchen added. "I'd start by reading recipes, finally settle on what I'd serve, go to the store, and bring home the ingredients. I wouldn't start cooking until late in the day, and I didn't find this unusual at all."

"We didn't do things a little bit at a time when we were

## Walking for Crocker Highlands Elementary



"CROCKER WALKERS" converged on the Crocker Highlands Elementary School neighborhood Saturday, March 20 to help raise money for ongoing school programs such as music and computer classes. A total of 267 students sporting T-shirts sponsored by Grubb Co. walked repeatedly around a half-mile neighborhood block. Many of the older students were attempting to break the course record of 47 blocks — almost 24 miles. But the heat of the day proved to be too much and the farthest walkers turned in their walking shoes after a mere 44 laps. Each year the PTA-sponsored event raises more than \$25,000. Funds from this event have paid for the school's play structures as well as other enrichment programs for Crocker Highlands students.



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True Experiences

younger," she went on. "We did whatever it was all at once. Now when I garden or clean house, I start later, knock off earlier, and take rests. I used to fill up 12 to 15 green garbage bags in the garden in one day. Now I'm lucky to do 5 or 6."

"I noticed today that I was picking up little piles of stuff," I told her. "Instead of sweeping it all into a big pile at the end, or all the way down to the bottom of the stairs, I was cleaning up as I went."

"Me, too!" Gretchen said. "I started thinking, why move it all to another spot? Why not just deal with it in sections?"

"I do think it's easier," I said. "I don't know why I'm suddenly

doing picking up differently than I always have, or why I didn't do it this way before. Isn't it amazing that we both came to this at the same time?"

"Hey, it's that micro gardening thing," she said. "The deal is not to look at the whole picture anymore, but instead do everything possible to one small area at a time."

"Oh, that's good, I've got it," I told her. "Last weekend I was working on the lamb's ears on the slope. You know how they get all mushy underneath from the rain and they look bad. So I was sitting in the middle of the bed, trying not to slide down the hill. I held onto my bucket with one hand and reached out as far as I could to pluck the squishy leaves with the other. I wondered how many more years I could manage that tottery little operation."

"Like my Japanese anemones," she replied. "They're bad. They've grown into the path between the stepping stones, and they have all

that brown old stuff still left on them from last year. It has to be carefully cut off because the new green leaves are already here."

"What if we cut lamb's ears and anemones down to the ground in the fall?" I asked. "Cutting them off shouldn't keep them from growing and maybe would eliminate the cleaning up in the spring."

"It might work. I should make a note to cut off the anemones when they're done blooming, say in November."

"But you wouldn't do it then," I pointed out, "because it will be raining then and soggy, and you won't want to go out there."

"You're right, I won't. I'll just have to deal with them in spring. Like tomorrow. They're so beautiful when they bloom, but boy, these guys really grow, and the place they're in must be their most favorite place in the world."

Then she added, "Have you noticed how much longer recovery time is? I mean, on Mondays, it's not so much that I'm sore, I'm just tired."

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## Crocker Highlands Open Sunday ~ April 4 ~ 2 to 5 PM



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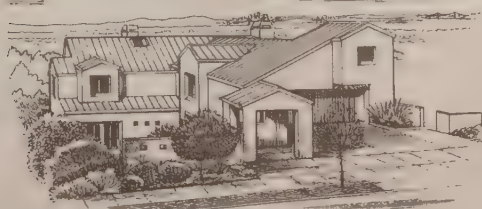
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## REAL ESTATE NEWS

## Benji Phillips named sales associate

COLDWELL BANKER  
BERKELEY — Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Berkeley is pleased to welcome Benji Phillips as its newest sales associate. In his new position, Phillips will specialize in residential sales in the East Bay.

"Coldwell Banker makes a point of recruiting only the most promising service professionals in the market, and Benji certainly fits that criteria," said Marcia Schwartz, Coldwell Banker Berkeley manager.

"We know he will provide the kind of outstanding customer service that Coldwell Banker clients have come to expect over the years."

Phillips recently completed an intensive training program through Anthony Schools, which emphasized the principles and techniques of real estate.

He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Phillips can be reached at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Berkeley, located at 1495 Shattuck Avenue, by phone at 510-755-3318 or via e-mail at Benji2u@aol.com.

## Jones now seniors real estate specialist

RED OAK REALTY  
Seniors who need advice about their homes and rental properties can turn to Virginia Jones, an agent with Red Oak Real

ty in Berkeley. The Senior Advantage Real Estate Council recently awarded her the Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES)

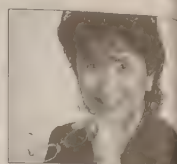
Seniors real estate specialists help seniors make decisions about selling the family home, buying rental property, managing the capital gains and estate tax

implications of owning real estate, obtaining a reverse mortgage, moving to a senior community and other issues.

The Senior Advantage Real Estate Council tracks the special issues and needs of senior property owners and provides education to Realtors who make

seniors an important focus of their business. The nationally recognized SRES designation was introduced in 1997. Jones can be reached at 510-280-2145.

VIRGINIA JONES



## Real Estate Focus:

## Mediterranean home in central Piedmont



THIS STATELY MEDITERRANEAN AT 308 PALA, built in 1928, is beautifully sited on a gently upsloped lot on one of the most sought-after streets in Central Piedmont. Meticulously maintained, this lovely home has had the same owner for decades. A state-of-the-art new kitchen with eating space for 6 to 8 people, is a recent addition. Together with the gracious step-down living room and very spacious formal dining room, this truly is a grand home for lavish entertaining. This home has four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Additionally, there is a two-car garage with interior access and a recreation room and laundry room on the same level.

Price: \$1,695,000. This property will be open Sunday, April 4 from 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Agent: Angela Wei Grubb, The Grubb Co., 510-339-0400, ext. 202 or www.grubbco.com.

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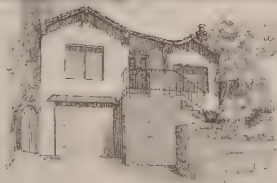
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**Oakland**  
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**San Leandro**  
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**San Leandro**  
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**San Leandro**  
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**Shopping**

[Realtor.com](http://Realtor.com) is the official website of the National Association of Realtors. Ranked

as the No. 1 home-for-sale site, it offers potential home buyers more than 2.1 million Realtor listed homes for sale as well as the most brokers and agents to contact. The site also provides home sellers with the Internet's largest marketplace to reach more than 4.98 million consumers per month.

**Hills**

Whether buying or selling, there are questions that demand an answer. Put an end to the questions by attending the "Buyers/Sellers Real Estate Workshop". The class is in Oakland. The presenters are Shaunda Scoggins and Stephanie Christmas of RE/Max East Bay Hills. Information is available at 510-553-1197 or 510-638-4134.

## REIO

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See REID, Page B6

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## 2 New Listings



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### 4160 BELL AVE., RICHMOND

#63 - Spacious Gem with modern kitchen, dining room w/entry to patio, play area, and yard for children. Skylights in bathroom. Lovely home and great neighborhood. Easy access to I-80 & 580. Carpool to San Francisco. \$399,990

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## 40 Alta Road, North Berkeley Hills

Open Saturday & Sunday  
April 3rd & 4th 12 - 5 p.m.

Gracious split level home with large rooms and a flowing floor plan that is ideal for entertaining. View fantastic sunsets from the decks that overlook San Francisco and the Bay Area, plus the lovely Japanese gardens below. Approximately 5,000 square feet of current and potential living space overall, this fabulous home offers so much but still allows for the new owner's personal signature.

The living room and formal dining room are open and airy, the contemporary kitchen is a chef's delight, and there are 3 bedrooms and 2 beautifully tiled baths on an upper level. The downstairs level can be used as separate living quarters, or another bedroom, bath and family room. Throughout the home are many modern and striking designer touches. There is an abundance of storage, a room that is suitable for a wine cellar, lots of large closets, a laundry room, and 2 car side by side garage. There have been many improvements, upgraded systems, and a new roof. Asking price is \$1,450,000.

For a private showing contact Jeannie Anderson/Pacific Union GMAC at 415-271-4887 or Traci Lewis/Exit Realty at 510-677-6674.

See photos at [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com)

Open Sunday 2-4

4220 Roosevelt Ave., Richmond  
Beautiful spacious three bedroom two bath split level MacGregor home on a quiet street. All the original charm you come to expect in the MacGregor homes. Formal dining area, large sunny eat-in kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors and a large lot for gardening or play.

\$399,000

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**OPEN SAT 11-1 & SUN 2-4**  
1634-1636 BROADWAY, ALAMEDA. TWO HOUSES, ONE LOT. Near Tilden with 3 bedrooms. 1 bath, original charm. Front Craftsman has 2 bedrooms 1 bath & natural wood built-ins. Live in one rent the other \$779,000. Tv Washbasin 510-748-1111

**OPEN SUNDAY 2-4**  
330 TIDEWAY, ALAMEDA. SOPHISTICATED YET CASUAL LIVING. Private clean urban look. Master bedroom, cherry wood floors, built-in kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors. \$779,000. Ruth Masonick 510-748-1111

**OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4**  
3247 ENCINAL AVE., ALAMEDA. DUPLEX Newly remodeled property. Each unit with 2 bedrooms 1 bath, and 1 car garage. New foundation, plumbing, electrical, floors, etc. Updated kitchens & baths. Inside laundry, \$648,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

**408 TIDEWAY, ALAMEDA.** Amazing lifestyle vacation year round. Master bedroom downstairs. Walk thru lovely garden to bright beautiful living. Your private deep water dock can accommodate a 40' boat \$779,000. Ruth Masonick 510-748-1111

**1328 CURTIS ST., BERKELEY.** 2 bedrooms 2 baths, remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace, mason style built-ins and full basement. Walk to shopping and close to BART. \$450,000. Justine Francis 510-748-1164 & Jim Nabors 510-748-1161

**3073 CAPP ST. BUNGALOW HOME.** 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, hardwood floors, large kitchen formal dining, fireplace. Updated electrical, new exterior paint. Close to shopping & 580. \$368,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

**4812 MELROSE AVE., OAKLAND. LEGAL DUPLEX CURRENTLY USED AS SINGLE FAMILY HOME.** Total of 4+ bedrooms (large master suite), 2 full baths, 2 1/2 car garages, fireplace in living room. \$420,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

**2560 INTERNATIONAL BLVD., OAKLAND. COMMERCIAL RETAIL STORE FRONT.** Completely remodeled building \$795,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

**686 - 10th ST., OAKLAND. CONVENIENTLY LOCATED CONDO.** Walking distance to downtown, farmers market and shopping. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry. Close to transit. \$225,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

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Ed Messner 510-662-8494

**VIEW PROPERTY/EL CERRITO HILLS** \$595,000  
3BR 3BA Almost 2000 sq. ft. estate sale, no court confirmation, basement, 2-car attached garage, 2 fireplaces, laundry room, hardwood flrs. #40005140  
Lollie Lourenco 510-627-0239

**FABULOUS CUSTOM HOME WIN-LAW & VIEWS IN THE HILLS** \$1,295,000  
4BR, 3BA w/ Master suite and 1 BR, 1 BA in-law downstairs. Home to almost 4000 Sq. Ft. Grand living room, large family room, new gleaming cherrywood floors, new cut Berber carpet, clear pest report & new roof, updated kitchen and baths. Attached 2-car garage w/ int. access. #30000404  
1315 Rifle Range  
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**EL CERRITO HILLS/MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS** \$1,300,000  
5BR, 3BA almost 2100 sq. ft. 1/4 acre lot, built-in sauna, 2-car attached garage, fireplace, laundry room, basement, near Arlington Park. #30005767  
Bing Pierce 510-273-9176

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## Reid

FROM PAGE B5

includes new and expanded real estate research information packaged in a fresh design that's user friendly. The service is available at realtor.org.

## UPSTAGE

UpStagers offers upbeat home styling for Bay Area real estate. There are three home makeover options. The company supplies all the furniture and accessories for a total makeover or the owner's articles can be used and rearranged. There is a consultation-only option for those do-it-yourselfers who are just looking for some direction. Check it out at [www.upstagers.com](http://www.upstagers.com).

## NEIGHBORS

Realtor magazine is seeking nominations for its fifth Good Neighbor Awards. The program recognizes Realtors who are committed to community service. Five winners will be announced in the magazine and honored at the 2004 Realtors Conference & Expo. Award entries must be received by May 1. For more details call 800-874-6500.

## WANTED

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, April 8, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

## TECH-FAIRE

Technology plus, plus! It's Tech Faire 2004 for the Real Estate Professional. This mega fair is brought to you by Alameda, Bay East, Berkeley,

Contra Costa, Delta, Oakland and West Contra Costa Associations of Realtors. Technology reigns April 29 and 30, at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek. The event offers two days of classes with nationally known instructors and a free vendor trade show. Learn more by visiting the Web site at [www.techfaire.org](http://www.techfaire.org).

## CRS

As a lead-in to Tech Faire 2004 the Northern California CRS Chapter offers "CRS 201—Listing Strategies For Residential Specialists". The course is 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 15 and 16 at the Oakland Association of Realtors Auditorium, at 14th and Webster in Oakland. Improving your listing skills can give you a strong competitive edge. DRE credit hours are approved for this course. Call ahead for parking and tuition information at NorCal CRS at 800-277-6003.

## PRESENTATIONS

Are you frustrated by losing listings? Do you need a formal

presentation? Attend the "Listing Presentation Class", presented by veteran business coach and trainer Kitty Cole. Cole teaches how to create personal listing presentation and marketing plan. This program is viable for agents of all experience levels. Get the confidence you need to get the listing. For a date and location near you call 925-254-1900 or send e-mail to [Kittybiz@aol.com](mailto:Kittybiz@aol.com).

## VIP

NAR members enjoy the benefits of the Realtor VIP Program designed to help them gain the advantages of group buying power, plan for the future and expand their professional knowledge through its more than 50 publications and educational offerings.

The more than 40 strategic alliance partners are leaders in their industries and committed to providing NAR members with special offerings tailored to their needs.

Check out these offerings at [www.realtor.org](http://www.realtor.org).

## WHO?

■ The real estate professional Tech Faire was conceived and created five years ago. As this column announces Tech Faire 2004, I just want to take a moment to send kudos to those responsible. Applause to Ann Bracci, Donna Smyth, Coly Young and Gregg Fujita the Tech Faire founders.

■ She's always helpful and always involved. Bethany Barry of First American Home Warranty joins Ramadan Aziz of First American Title as the Affiliate co-chair of the Oakland Association of Realtors Tour Day Breakfast. These two "tour guides" organize and present this monthly event.

## WHAT?

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an email to [bobbireid@mindspring.com](mailto:bobbireid@mindspring.com). Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191

# ★ NEW LOWER ROCKRIDGE LISTING! ★

## ★ Open House - Sunday, April 4, 2004 1-5pm ★



2 bedroom / 1 bath  
479 60th Street  
Offered @ \$595,000

## Charming Lower Rockridge Bungalow

Come see this wonderful Rockridge home. It features 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, a traditional floor plan, a cozy living room with a fireplace, a formal dining room with a built-in china cabinet, a remodeled eat-in kitchen, a bedroom, gleaming hardwood floors, designer colors, and great architectural details. There is a private sunny yard! Part of the garage has been converted to a wonderful Home Office/Art Space/Work Shop/Play Space or ?? This home is located Close to Rockridge and College Avenue Shops and Restaurants, Market Hall, BART, AC Transit, Freeways, Casual Carpooling, Alta Bates, Emeryville, UC Berkeley and Gallons of Great Coffee.

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**Coming Soon!**

*Piedmont Side of Montclair*

6121 Wood Drive, Oakland

With southern exposure and bay views, this lovely home in a prestigious neighborhood has a very livable floor plan. A large picture window and glass doors in the living room/dining room combination open to a sunny, spacious deck with spectacular views. A level play area and garden are accessible from the entertainment room. 4BR/2.5BA.

Offered at \$879,000

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(510) 338-1355

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**PRETTY ORINDA HOME**

**10 La Bolsita Way Orinda**

Spacious home approximately 1900 square feet on a charming cul-de-sac with 3 large bedrooms and 2 full baths. A great floor plan with a roomy living room with vaulted ceilings and a separate formal dining area. The kitchen opens into a family room with a brick fireplace and sliding doors to a private back patio. Convenient attached two car garage and low maintenance yard make for easy living.

**\$698,000**

**Laura Abrams**  
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Represented the Sellers

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**NEW LISTING**

**West Oakland**  
3801 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland  
Offered at \$1,200,000

Two buildings & a lot! One building is a Duplex. The other is a Triplex with a storefront. Adjacent to it is a vacant lot.

For more info, call:  
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**222 Carmel Avenue, Central Piedmont**

RECENTLY SOLD. Situated in Central Piedmont, this stately property sits on a beautiful lot with lush gardens and Bay views. Built circa 1908, this three bedroom, two and one half bath home retains the charm of its era with rich paneled walls, custom wood built-ins and a finished attic. Originally offered at \$1,100,000

Represented the purchasers

**DANA COHEN**  
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Graceful traditional in Piedmont includes second parcel and is freshly painted with hardwood floors throughout. Spacious living room has wood burning fireplace and oversized windows. Kitchen features all stainless steel appliances, breakfast bar, and granite counter tops. Inland front and back patios offer privacy and seclusion. 2 car garage with plus room.

**1835 Trestle Glen, Piedmont**  
Asking Price \$749,000

For a Virtual Home Tour Visit me at [www.NahidNassiri.com](http://www.NahidNassiri.com)

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For more information call

**The GRUBB Co.**

**Magnificent Maybeck**

**2601 Derby Street, Berkeley**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Built in 1900, this historic five bedroom home embodies the aesthetic principles of the Berkeley Unitarian "Hillside Club" movement: ample spaces, asymmetrical design, natural materials used in honest simplicity, and exposed beams. Beautiful clear-heart redwood has been used throughout, and has been unspoiled. A piece of Berkeley history, this home is located ideally close to the University of California Campus and Elmwood.

**Offered at \$1,300,000**

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## WEEKLY SALES

**ALAMEDA**  
 07 Adams St D - \$540,000  
 515 Central 203 - \$353,000  
 21 Channing Wy - \$610,000  
 124 Holly St - \$527,000  
 053 Mangrove Ln - \$360,000  
 070 San Jose Av - \$975,000

127 Sea Bridge Ct - \$945,000  
 1518 Sherman St - \$530,000

### ALBANY

907 Adams St A - \$540,000  
 909 Adams St A - \$525,000  
 915 Adams St A - \$535,500  
 535 Pierce St 3315 - \$362,000  
 555 Pierce St 930 - \$304,000

### BERKELEY

2018 6th St - \$350,000  
 186 Alvarado Rd - \$1,347,500  
 1583 Arch St A - \$560,000  
 2639 Benvenue Av - \$601,000

2313 Bonar St - \$600,000  
 1311 Carleton St - \$440,000  
 1514 Cedar St - \$615,000  
 1010 Creston Rd - \$1,075,000  
 3130 Ellis St - \$535,000  
 40 Roble Ct - \$1,604,000  
 1863 San Lorenzo - \$760,000  
 2252 Summer St - \$670,000  
 1869 Thousand Oaks - \$800,000  
 2415 Webster St - \$520,000  
 2743 Woolsey St - \$1,050,000

### EL CERRITO

7742 Stockton Av - \$565,000

### EMERYVILLE

8 Admiral Dr - \$362,000  
 4 Captain E213 - \$189,000  
 7 Commodore A351 - \$230,000

### OAKLAND

2125 102nd Av - \$268,000  
 2024 105th Av - \$312,000  
 2508 108th Av - \$290,000  
 2375 109th Av - \$290,000  
 2601 11th Av - \$550,000

See SALES, Page B8

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

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## New art exhibit

RED OAK REALTY

Red Oak Realty presents art Jane Magid, fine art photographer, in a show that is running March 27 to May 27. An artist's reception is set for today, 6 to 8 p.m.

"Nudes: An Intimate View of Nature," Magid notes, "When we are nude, we are vulnerable, beautiful, and in our most elemental form as animal. We are like the other elements of the ecosystem than we are different from them."

Through these nature nudes, we seek to share my sense of how we are similar to and connected to the other elements of our landscape. I believe that we are at respect and compassion through our understanding of connectedness."

Normal viewing hours are every day through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Red Oak Realty, 3 College Ave., Berkeley. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-849-9990.

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www.Prurealty.com

## High Above the Claremont: A Provencal Masterpiece

335 Cravatt Drive, Berkeley

Inspired by many trips - & life in Provence - this house is a beautifully detailed house offers dramatic views, a grand entertaining & intimate, inviting atmosphere. The house is a masterpiece of design. Enjoy panoramic views of San Francisco, the Bay, Mt. Tamalpais & the bridge. Art studio, in-law unit, & level garden area. Features master suite, extraordinary children's suite with play, plus 2 additional bedrooms & more. The kitchen is a cook's dream. All this in a garden light.

\$2,450,000

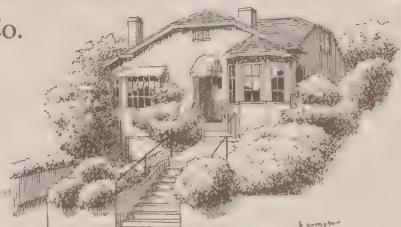


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285 Adams Street, Oakland

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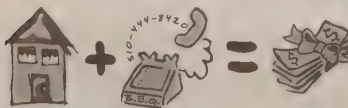
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## Sales

FROM PAGE B7

655 12th St 224 - \$397,000  
 2744 14th Av - \$390,000  
 627 22nd St - \$515,000  
 810 23rd Av - \$1,690,000  
 1727 24th Av - \$400,000  
 935 24th St - \$560,000  
 2451 25th Av - \$273,000  
 2112 26th Av - \$283,000  
 681 32nd St - \$408,000  
 2115 39th Av - \$350,000  
 2247 41st Av - \$305,000  
 1456 48th Av - \$304,000  
 378 50th St - \$585,000  
 440 60th St - \$675,000  
 1174 62nd Av - \$260,000  
 2404 64th Av - \$285,000  
 2112 65th Av - \$210,000  
 1060 69th Av - \$267,000  
 2952 73rd Av - \$330,000  
 1259 76th Av - \$280,000  
 1626 79th Av - \$285,000  
 1940 81st Av - \$372,000  
 1969 83rd Av - \$275,000  
 2538 83rd Av - \$284,000  
 2648 8th Av - \$640,000  
 1609 90th Av - \$273,000  
 1949 94th Av - \$270,000  
 311 Ak St #341 - \$380,000  
 311 Ak St #519 - \$440,000  
 24 Anair Wy - \$300,000  
 4421 Arcadia Av - \$559,000  
 4051 Balfour Av - \$460,000  
 4136 Bayo St - \$552,000  
 5230 Belvedere St - \$347,500  
 3047 Berlin Wy - \$365,000  
 3249 Bona St - \$365,000  
 770 Brooklyn Av - \$675,000  
 5369 Bruns Ct - \$779,000  
 6000 Buena Vista - \$395,000  
 4019 Burkhalter Av - \$330,000  
 935 Center St - \$510,000  
 63 Chadbourne Wy - \$570,000  
 538 Chetwood St - \$535,000  
 2336 Church St - \$250,000  
 4401 Davenport Av - \$541,000  
 5808 East 17th St - \$300,000  
 2260 East 20th St - \$399,000  
 1225 East 21st St - \$250,000  
 4073 Edwards Av - \$350,000  
 532 El Paseo Dr - \$230,000  
 3218 Elmwood Av - \$370,000  
 10712 Estepa Dr - \$275,000  
 1776 Excelsior Av - \$601,000  
 2532 Filbert St - \$408,500  
 2957 Florida St - \$395,000  
 235 Frisbie St - \$410,000  
 2785 Garden St - \$440,000  
 7728 Garfield Av - \$247,000  
 8332 Golf Links Rd - \$420,000  
 9126 Golf Links Rd - \$425,000  
 4316 Gordon St - \$305,000  
 7021 Hemlock St - \$710,000  
 2800 Hopkins Pl - \$255,000  
 141 Hunter Av - \$269,000  
 5717 Keith Av - \$897,500  
 200 Kerwin Av - \$230,000  
 3128 Knowland Av - \$450,000  
 3945 Laguna Av - \$535,000  
 1555 Lakeside Dr - \$305,000  
 10329 Longfellow - \$339,000  
 8826 MacArthur Bl - \$450,000  
 2050 Manzanita Dr - \$1,080,000  
 4050 Midvale Av - \$544,000  
 5124 Miles Av - \$715,000  
 8671 Mountain 40 - \$315,000  
 550 Mountain Bl - \$1,100,000  
 4380 Oak Hill Rd - \$625,000

6230 Oakdale Av - \$418,500  
 233 Orange St #306 - \$285,000  
 150 Pearl St #218 - \$160,000  
 651 Poirier St - \$640,000  
 2470 Renwick St - \$390,000  
 11034 Robledo Dr - \$315,000  
 5733 Ross St - \$881,000  
 7400 Rudsdale A - \$272,000  
 2475 Siesta Ln - \$235,000  
 6916 Snake Rd - \$543,500  
 492 Staten Av #120 - \$665,000  
 533 Sycamore St - \$505,000  
 4309 Terrabella Wy - \$862,000  
 8739 Thermal St - \$243,000  
 85 Thousand Oaks - \$482,000  
 1636 Trestle Glen Rd - \$595,000  
 2550 Truman Av - \$300,000  
 661 Via Rialto Dr - \$925,000  
 3896 Webster St - \$437,000  
 3915 Webster St - \$385,000  
 7344 Weld St - \$520,000  
 709 W. MacArthur - \$460,000  
 1031 Wood St - \$385,000

See SALES, Page B9



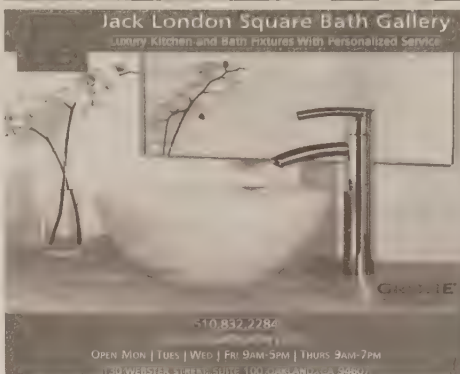
### 1253 Hawthorne Heart of Alameda's Gold Coast 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath

#### Huge Price Reduction

Light, Bright & Airy. Located on 1 block Cul-de-sac. Ceramic tile floors in Entry Hall, Kitchen & Family Room / Office. Large Formal Living Room. Formal Dining Room. Hardwood Floors newly refinished, new paint. Large Master Bedroom Suite. Gourmet Kitchen. Solid Oak Cabinets. Family Room. Could Be used for Au Pair. 2 Car detached Garage with Workshop.

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Williams  
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### VIEWPOINT REAL ESTATE



presented by  
**Vickie Robinson and Aleso Gourhan**

### HOME BUYERS APPRECIATE COSMETIC IMPROVEMENTS

Most homeowners make improvements because they assume that the cost will be offset by an increase in the market value of their home. Although features such as a luxury bathroom, an upgraded kitchen and a multiple-car garage add value, they can cost more to install than they actually return when the home sells. Furthermore, it's not always certain that your home improvement plan is going to accommodate every prospective buyer's taste in décor style, finishing and appliances.

Instead of pouring money into expensive renovations prior to selling your home, consider the more conservative approach recommended by many real estate professionals: Concentrate on cosmetic enhancements. What most home shoppers want to see is well-groomed landscaping and an immaculate, clutter-free interior. If you want to repaint, choose a neutral palette that provides a generic background against which homebuyers can visualize their own furniture. Repair or replace whatever makes the home look shabby - cracked windows or walkways, sagging porch steps, chipped plaster, missing roof shingles or drawer pulls. These simple and relatively inexpensive improvements will go a long way in a potential buyer's eyes.

Vickie Robinson and Aleso Gourhan are Bay Area natives and both are top producers for Prudential California Real Estate. For professional assistance with all aspects of buying or selling residential real estate, call them at 510-428-0900



www.oaklandpiedmont.com

### The GRUBB Co. REALTORS



### 79 Hazel Lane, Piedmont

COMING SOON. Pristine, elegant, exquisitely updated and appointed Piedmont traditional in the best central location. Four bedrooms, two baths up. Newly remodeled chef's kitchen; family room. Elegant formal living and dining rooms. Large, level lawns and gardens, front and back.

Offered at \$2,600,000



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### Open Sunday April 4th, 2:00 - 4:30



**2223 Pinehurst Way, El Cerrito**  
Offered at \$595,000

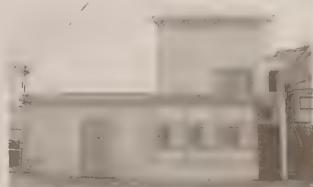
**Gorgeous Townhome**  
**Lovely Bay Views**  
**Over 2200 Square Feet**

Three plus bedrooms, two and a half baths  
Eat-in kitchen opens to private patio  
Family room with fireplace.  
Wonderful master suite.  
Rare find!

**Helen Walker and Kathryn Stein**  
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THORNWALL Properties

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#### Duplex + Workshop

3bd/2ba, deck plus 3+bd/2ba plus attached workshop with half bath. Total of 6+bd, 3 full baths and one-half bath. Not a fixer.

Only \$425,000



**Victorian 3bd on huge, deep lot. Hardwood floors, fireplace, tons of space for expansion. Incredible value.**  
Only \$300,000

### 8,500 sq. ft. lot

Sweeping View  
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Build your dream home!

## \$225,000

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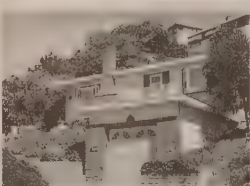
### marvin gardens real estate



El Cerrito, 910 Leneve.

\$849,900

Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with spectacular Canyon views! Hardwood floors, fireplace, large dining room, office/studio area. Possible in-law w/ private entrance on lower level. Lush front and back yards.



El Cerrito, 2434 Tulare.

\$469,000

Delightful 3 bedroom, 1 bath Hills home with updated kitchen and bath, lovely stone fireplace, hardwood floors, nicely landscaped terraced yard with deck. Bay views. Private serene setting.



El Cerrito, 6818 Cutting Blvd.

\$419,000

Beautiful hill home with mountain & Bay views. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath upstairs w/ kitchen and formal dining room. Hardwood floors. Downstairs: 1 bath and large unfinished basement with a lot of potential. Big backyard; close to BART.



East Vallejo, 112 Franklin St.

\$289,000

Tree-lined street! Lovely 2 bedroom, 1 bath in a pretty neighborhood. Hardwood floors, charming kitchen with adorable vintage style formal dining room. Decks in front and back with great hillside views. Garage w/ interior access, basement expansion potential. Large fenced yard w/ hot tub.

Open Sunday 2-4  
Merrilyn Rhodes  
Crystal Elliott

292-3048

292-3041

Open Sunday 2-4  
Melissa Eizenberg

292-3055

Open Sunday 2-4  
Terri Huang

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7502 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito  
(510) 527-9111

289 Arlington Ave., Kensington  
(510) 524-0800

147 W. Richmond Ave., Ft. Richmond  
(510) 231-1640

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# Sales

FROM PAGE B8

## Piedmont

99 Sea View Av - \$2,200,000

## Richmond

545 19th St - \$354,000  
535 26th St - \$285,000  
975 31st St - \$342,500  
1829 3rd St - \$235,000  
1873 3rd St - \$200,000  
144 4th St - \$181,500  
2905 Barkley Dr - \$390,000  
6730 Bayview Av - \$605,000  
2609 Beach Head - \$393,000

5845 Bernhard Av - \$419,000  
6111 Bernhard Av - \$415,000  
1025 Chanslor Av - \$600,000  
1029 Chanslor Av - \$600,000  
1523 Chanslor Av - \$250,000  
2530 Clinton Av - \$365,000  
2542 Clinton Av - \$315,000  
2714 East Ct - \$274,000  
3468 Fleetwood Dr - \$424,500  
3600 Florida Av - \$253,000  
2903 Gilma Dr - \$350,000  
804 Griffin Dr - \$263,000  
5181 Heavenly Ridge - \$550,000  
2631 Lincoln Av - \$270,000  
2926 Maricopa Av - \$333,000  
3006 Maricopa Av - \$320,000  
1539 Mariposa St - \$246,000  
2619 McBryde Av - \$280,000

881 Meadow View Dr - \$657,000  
1727 Mendocino St - \$470,000  
1685 Merced St - \$390,000  
4849 Morwood Dr - \$429,000  
3141 Moyers Rd - \$325,000  
233 Nevada Av - \$420,000  
1080 Parkside Dr - \$345,000  
609 Phanor Dr - \$247,000  
6742 Richmond Av - \$424,000  
325 Sanford Av - \$310,000  
3951 Selmi Grove - \$549,000  
500 South 15th St - \$295,000  
270 South 18th St - \$280,000  
352 South 39th St - \$360,000  
226 South 43rd St - \$265,000  
1774 Tulare Av - \$411,000  
400 Willard Av - \$395,000

47 Willard Av - \$335,000  
619 Wilson Av - \$300,000

## SAN LEANDRO

1365 148th Av - \$656,000  
771 Arguello Dr - \$391,000  
102 Begier Av - \$640,000  
1311 Begier Av - \$545,000  
2116 Benedict Dr - \$515,000  
895 Billings Bl - \$430,000  
703 Biltmore St - \$670,000

14850 Boulevard Ct - \$323,000  
717 Callaway St - \$664,000  
1132 Carpentier St - \$270,000  
1943 Cleveland St - \$450,000  
2218 Compass Cv - \$563,000  
1371 Daily Dr - \$502,000  
2330 Diamond Bar - \$625,000  
16791 Ehle St - \$340,000  
739 Elsie Av - \$415,000  
1700 Fairmont Dr - \$360,000

1091 Fargo Av - \$435,000  
1611 Halsay Av - \$375,500  
1685 Hickory Av - \$430,000  
1884 Lanier Av - \$501,000  
14366 Lark St - \$530,000  
1342 Manor Bl - \$448,000  
891 Martin Bl - \$379,000  
455 Napoleon Dr - \$550,000  
14638 Outrigger Dr - \$425,000

See SALES, Page B9

## WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS

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Open Sunday - April 4th, 2:00 - 4:30

### Piedmont Pines

Rarely do you find a traditional home like this with delightful architectural surprises around every corner plus breathtaking Bay views. Included are a formal dining room, updated kitchen with granite counters, spacious living room with country beam ceilings, family room, two fireplaces, five bedrooms, and four and a half baths including a master retreat and au pair unit.



OFFERED AT \$1,095,000



For more information, please contact  
Noli Davis 531-7000 ext. 263

www.wellsandbennett.com

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### 964 Indian Rock, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A Mediterranean showcase! This elegant home features classic detailing and expansive SF and Bay views. Built in 1925, this property is located within close proximity to Solano/Shattuck shops. There are 4+BR/4BA, including a luxurious master suite. Family room with double French doors to deck and remodeled kitchen that opens to lovely terrace & garden. There is also a one-car garage and generous storage areas.

Offered at \$1,250,000

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## The GRUBB Co.



### 308 Pala Avenue, Piedmont

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A stately Mediterranean on a beautiful Piedmont street! Stunning light-filled living room, spacious dining room with beamed ceiling. Large gourmet kitchen with breakfast nook. Four bedrooms, three baths and more....  
Offered at \$1,695,000



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Coming in Mid-April

### 454 Hudson St.

\$679,000

2br/1ba Craftsman in the heart of Rockridge, garage converted into office/studio, sunny private yard with lemon trees, 2 fireplaces, glowing wood floors, Hot tub, storm windows, many original details, built-ins, just blocks from BART and Market Hall

### 230 Mather St.

2+br/2ba just 2 blocks from the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Piedmont Ave., fireplace, seismically retrofitted, updated kitchen, new hot tub, deep lush private yard, many original details, tons of storage - perfect for wine cellar

Coming in Early May

### 1921 Milvia St.

\$495,000

3br/2.5ba spacious central Berkeley home, fireplace, large deck off master bedroom, southern exposure, new granite counters, new bamboo floors, patio, open floor plan

### 4550 Tulip Ave.

\$479,000

3br/2ba, Laurel district home with huge deep yard, beautiful hardwood floors, deck, attached garage, newer appliances, laundry room

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2% commission

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## WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS

OPEN 2:00 - 4:30

BY APPOINTMENT



### 5526 BALBOA DRIVE \$899,000

Montclair. Mid-Century Elegance w/a View! Privacy & clean combined w/great indoor-outdoor flow to approximately 1/3 acre landscaped grounds. Golden Gate view. Four bedrooms and three baths.

Peter Nicolopoulos 531-7000 x248

### 6833 MOORE DRIVE \$875,000

Montclair. Colonial built in 40's. Very well kept with lots of upgrades. 3BD/3BA, formal dining room, liv. rm. w/frp, breakfast nook, oak cabinets, lower family room w/kitchen & frp. Includes extra lot!

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



### 1886 TIFFIN ROAD \$520,000

Oakmore. Sunny, cheerful 2BD home with traditional styling. Updated cook's kitchen with island for cooking & eating. Generous plus spaces in finished basement. Level yard with grassy, planted borders, patio area.

Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

### 1781 CLEMENS ROAD \$505,000

Oakmore. Lovely 2BD/1BA home. Marvelous original architectural details, refinished hardwood floors, new vinyl in kit. & breakfast room/den. Tile in BA. Large basement. Sweet backyard, Extra storage. Detached garage with long driveway.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292



### 3940 LA CRESTA AVENUE \$490,000

Glenview. Well maintained one level home. 2BD/1BA, large room & dining area. Breakfast room opens to nice backyard, 1 car garage, 4 yr old roof.

Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

### 199 MONTECITO AVE #205 \$299,750

Adams Point. This lovely and spacious 2BD/2BA condo has lots of natural light. It features newer appliances, living room with fireplace and a master suite. All that's needed is your personal touch to make it your home.

Patsy Buhler 531-7000 238



### 3355 BIRDSALL \$389,000

Maxwell Park. Charming 2BD/1BA Med., living room w/vaulted ceiling, original tile fireplace, & arched window, gorgeous refinished. Hardwood floors, freshly painted, large eat-in kitchen, lovely private yard!

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

### 7317 LOCKWOOD \$259,800

Oakland. Just Listed! Totally remodeled. Two bedroom, one bath. Formal dining room, great eat-in kitchen. Don't miss this!

Holda Novelo 531-7000 x249



### SPACIOUS 3BD/2BA \$419,000

Maxwell Park. Gorgeous refinished hwd floors, freshly painted in and out, new roof, dining room w/built-ins, lower level w/bonus rooms & 2nd BA has separate entrance, huge attic for storage!

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

### 26 MURDOCK COURT \$289,000

Oakland. Inviting two bedroom cottage with enclosed sun porch. Hardwood floors, fireplace. Roomy eat-in kitchen. Large yard. Located on a cul-de-sac.

Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

## INCOME PROPERTIES

### MIXED USE/LIVE WORK \$795,000

Oakland. Busy commercial district. Four residential units over two commercial store fronts. Parking in rear, updated plumbing, electrical, foundation.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

### FOUR UNIT BUILDING \$594,000

Melrose. Nice four units in a good area. Two-two bedrooms, two-one bedrooms. Large backyard. New electrical service upgrades.

Michael Childress 531-7000 x215

## LAND

### JEWELL COURT MONTCLAIR \$450,000

Rare level to downslope site. 8,058 sq. ft. in the wooded hills above Montclair at the end of a cul-de-sac facing the Bay. Near several upscale new homes planned soon by experienced local builders.

Peter Nicolopoulos 531-7000 x248

FEATURED HOMES OPEN 2:00 - 4:30



### 6839 ELVERTON DRIVE \$1,450,000

Montclair. Grand New Mediterranean! Pano Bay View. Luxurious finishes. Five bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, library with fireplace, office, media room!

Antoine Pirson 531-7000 x270



### 6501 LONGWALK DRIVE \$1,095,000

Montclair. This traditional home, built in 1938 & recently renovated, is loaded w/ architectural details. It offers glorious Bay views, a remodeled kit. w/granite counters, dramatic liv. rm. with county beam ceilings, form. din., 2 frp, 5BD/4.5BA. Upstairs is a private master retreat & downstairs is a self contained au pair unit.

Noli Davis 531-7000 x263



## Sales

FROM PAGE B9

15388 Ruggles St - \$430,000  
 14995 Willey St - \$485,000  
 2225 Woodduck Ct - \$450,000

### SAN LORENZO

16284 Ashland Av - \$340,000  
 438 Crespi Pl - \$441,500  
 442 Crespi Pl - \$417,500  
 456 Crespi Pl - \$359,000  
 16624 Cumora Av - \$392,000  
 16074 Via Alamitos - \$295,000  
 17730 Via Arriba - \$410,000  
 1216 Via Dolorosa - \$400,000  
 17340 Via Frances - \$425,000  
 15831 Via Rivera - \$465,000

### By the numbers

#### ALAMIDA

TOTAL SALES: 8  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$353,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$975,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$540,000  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$605,000

#### ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$304,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$540,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$525,000

### Market Indicator\*

Last wk	This wk
5.125	5.250

CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE					Advertisement Information by INFOTRAK National Data Services
www.mtgeinfo.com/cct					
COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Rates as of 3/30/04 COMMENTS
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1894	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.478 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.000 5.671 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375 ... 0.000 4.417 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.375 ... 0.000 3.477 ... 30	Sp Hebra Espanol. 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DRE# 4130388 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.368 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.428 ... 30	3/1 ARM 2.875 ... 0.000 2.978 ... 30	5/1 ARM 3.750 ... 0.000 3.858 ... 30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Great jumbo & interest Only programs
Santell & Associates 800-516-0656 DRE#00549993 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.341 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.539 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.250 ... 0.000 3.330 ... 30	30-yr ARM* 1.950* ... 0.000 4.719 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 10 POINTS-0 COSTS avail INTEREST ONLY/DOWN PMT*/Full index 4 632 APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanpaperwork.com
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220328 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.440 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.530 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 0.000 4.850 ... 45	5/1 ARM 4.000 ... 0.000 4.010 ... 45	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Purh/Ref to 100% Saratogabancorp.com
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	1-yr ARM call ...	Rental Property call ...	Purchase Specials/5 day close/no points. Complimentary pre-approvals. Available 7 days a week incl evenings
Western Capital Mortgage 408-615-9355 DRE# 01080489 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.365 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.550 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.250 4.842 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.250 4.997 ... 30	No Closing Cost Loans Available Ask about our 5/1 & 7/1 ARMs & BALLOONS Apply Online at www.lowestrates.com
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.340 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.539 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.000 4.652 ... 45	3/1 ARM 3.000 ... 0.000 3.079 ... 45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! www.mortgageadvent.com; No doc, Free approval loans, M-F 7-9, S-S 7-5
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.510 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.000 5.790 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 0.000 4.810 ... 30	5/1 ARM 3.875 ... 0.000 4.020 ... 30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK "Apply online" www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096148 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.500 5.389 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.541 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.035 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.000 4.912 ... 30	ALL THE PROGRAMS/SHOP AND COMPARE CREDIT PROBLEMS O.K. RATES UPDATED DAILY @AAAELENDER.COM
AlmLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.125 5.480 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.375 5.584 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 0.125 4.892 ... 30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375 ... 0.250 4.212 ... 30	Apply and lock online 24/7. Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm. Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DRE# 6038592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.250* ... 0.000 5.312 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375* ... 0.000 5.454 ... 45	3/1 ARM 3.250* ... 0.000 3.919 ... 45	5/1 ARM 4.000* ... 0.000 4.101 ... 45	*APR includes bank fee. Save money: www.amersave.com.Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300.
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1608	30-yr Fixed 5.500* ... 0.853 5.603 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375* ... 1.231 5.513 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500* ... 1.135 4.802 ... 30	6 Mo Interest Only 4.500* ... 1.255 3.162 ... 30	"Purch only 100%Financing Avail - Fast Closings No Cost for Appraisal - Refi today! Low/ModIncome Programs Avail
Bank of America Mortgage 925-688-3760 Fees=\$1408	30-yr Fixed 5.250* ... 1.639 5.496 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375* ... 1.221 5.577 ... 30	6 month ARM 3.000* ... 0.351 3.111 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.375* ... 1.223 3.749 ... 30	*Purchase only. Call for reference Rates 925-688-3760 / 877-88-Fixed
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769422 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 4.750* ... 1.000 4.951 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750* ... 1.000 4.885 ... 30	1st Time Buyer 30 4.250* ... 1.000 4.445 ... 30	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.250* ... 1.000 3.434 ... 30	*75% LTV, 720 Fico, prepay penalty **1st TIME BUYER 30 yr. fix after fed subsidy. Income & price limits. 100%OK
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DRE# 0116896 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 1.000 5.198 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.000 5.513 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.170 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.250 ... 0.000 3.294 ... 30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock. NEW Construction Home PUR
Buckingham Mtge. Corp. 888-721-4500 DRE# 603-8905 Fees=\$2135	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.425 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.485 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.375 ... 0.000 3.658 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 0.000 3.800 ... 30	7/1J - 4.5%/4 552 APR, 10/1J- 4.75%/4 803 APR - 0 PTS. Stated, No Doc, Int Only. No Cost Refi Available Open 24/7
Cal First Lending 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1623	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.447 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.531 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 1.500 4.569 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 ... 1.500 3.780 ... 30	OPEN WKENDS, FAST & EZ APRVAL, CASH OUT NO POINT NO FEES LOANS AVAILABLE, CALL 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.410 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.000 5.790 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 ... 0.000 4.540 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.040 ... 30	Cal-State Funding CAN CALIFIRSTLENDING.COM Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 1.375 5.311 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.500 5.412 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.000 ... 1.500 3.142 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 1.250 4.003 ... 30	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated or no income option available. Credit Problems O.K
Countrywide Home Loans 888-696-3622 Fees=\$1215	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.699 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.000 5.782 ... 30	10-yr arm Jmb I/O 4.875 ... 0.000 4.830 ... 30	12 Mo Fxd Pay I/O 1.250 ... 0.000 3.261 ... 30	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES 100% FINANCING, LESS PAPERWORK FREE PRE-APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DRE# 6038594 Fees=\$1145	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 1.500 5.090 ... 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.000 5.370 ... 35	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.500 4.550 ... 35	COOI 30 yr ARM** 1.950 ... 0.000 4.880 ... 60	*Fast! Fast! Closings!! "No DOC to \$1M." **Loans for A-B-C-D Credit. 100% Purchase *Loans to \$4 Mill. *Pot. neg. amort.
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DRE# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 2.000 5.295 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 2.000 5.495 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 2.000 4.746 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 2.000 5.166 ... 30	Apply online at www.ditech.com -Your mortgage solution. Delivered!
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DRE# 86037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 1.625 5.424 ... 60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.750 5.548 ... 60	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250 ... 1.000 4.593 ... 45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg. amort. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-798-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1988	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.465 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.125 5.563 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.161 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 4.900 ... 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at: www.lightwell.com Call 7 days wk mighell@1stblackhawk.com
Golden Gate Home Loans 925-275-4920 DRE# 6052720 Fees=\$1946	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.340 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.690 ... 30	30-yr rate reduct* 5.500 ... 1.000 5.590 ... 30	7/1 ARM 4.500 ... 0.000 4.580 ... 30	*Jumbo-Rate lowered 3/8 annually for first 4 yrs. Last 25 Yrs rate is 4% 1/8 Open 8:00A.M. - 8:00P.M. Mon thru Fri...
Hamilton National Mortgage 800-220-7334 DRE#4130379 \$1165	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.312 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.540 ... 30	10-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 0.000 4.313 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.000 4.554 ... 30	CONSISTENTLY THE LOWEST RATES SINCE 1986 COMPETITIVE NO COST LOANS WWW.HAMILTONNATIONAL.COM
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 0133932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 1.000 5.320 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.000 5.570 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 1.000 4.570 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 1.000 3.999 ... 30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST, LOCKABLE RATE FIND OUT WHY I GET SO MANY REFERRALS! I CALL NOW!!
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DRE# 4130418 Fees=\$1831	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 1.500 5.069 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 1.500 5.233 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.125 ... 1.825 4.550 ... 30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.250 ... 0.000 5.353 ... 30	Mortgage Bankers Coast to Coast! Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans! visit us at www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com
Mortgage Center USA 800-840-5588 DRE# 00881816 Fees=\$1770	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 1.990 5.380 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 1.990 5.380 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 1.990 4.670 ... 30	10 yr Int Only ARM 2.750 ... 1.000 3.310 ... 30	5/1 3.500 1.99p APR 3.721 WOW! INT ONLY NO COST LOANS E.Bay Offices 800-840-5588 Purchase and Refinance Specialist
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00887662 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.485 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.000 5.716 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 0.000 4.775 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 3.872 ... 30	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction/Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great Service, Over 25 years in Business
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	6 month ARM call ...		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point Loans are available!! (3yr/ppp) E-mail Steve@gnorthmutual.com

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- Learn about closing costs and types of loans
- Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- Email questions/scenarios to lenders
- Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- Prequalify, preapprove or apply online

Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$333,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. \*Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on a \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website + contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

**If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 704-276-1711**

## The GRUBB Co.

5785 Country Club Drive  
 OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Located in prestigious Claremont Pines, this four bedroom, three and one-half bath contemporary home offers gorgeous Bay views, lovely gardens and spacious formal rooms. Minutes to College Avenue, BART, recreational facilities. **Offered at \$975,000.**

**DANA COHEN**  
 OFFICE: 339.0400/348  
 dcohen@grubbco.com

## Open House April 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

724 Curtis St., Albany  
**Offered at \$675,000**

A very bright, spacious, warm and inviting home with many extras. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. All Hardwood floors. Large Kitchen with a pantry and eating area. Formal Dining Room with built-in cabinets. Beautifully Landscaped. Redwood Deck and Hot Tub. Full basement with lots of storage space, workshop, bonus rooms for an office and family room and a one-car garage.

**Bill Shaw - Broker Associate**  
 510-524-8508 or 510-821-0607  
 1484 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

## OAKLAND HILLS

OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2-4:30PM

4629 Davenport Avenue, Oakland

Classic 2016+/- sq. ft. Art Moderne home designed by architect Frederick L.R. Conner. Unique home has 4BR/2BA situated on approx .3 acres with views of S.E. Oakland and the Bay. Many upgrades to this private sun-filled home, with mature landscaping.

**Diane Earl McCan** *Offered at \$619,000*  
 REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST  
 (510) 338-1352  
 Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com

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## LAUREL

OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2-4:30PM

4046 3916 Avenue, Oakland

Charming 1915 cottage on approx 14,850 sq. ft. lot with orchard. Expansive Bay/S.E. views. Has retained its original charm. Workshop basement. Needs TLC but a great opportunity in a wonderful location. **Offered at \$375,000 "as-is"**

**Diane Earl McCan**  
 REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST  
 (510) 338-1352  
 Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com



# ales

IN PAGE B10

**LAND**  
TOTAL SALES: 105  
LOWEST PRICE: \$160,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,690,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$390,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$451,033

**EDMONT**  
TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$2,200,000

**RICHMOND**  
TOTAL SALES: 46  
LOWEST PRICE: \$181,500  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$657,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$363,489

**SAN LANDRO**  
TOTAL SALES: 30  
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$670,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$472,817

**SAN LORENZO**  
TOTAL SALES: 10

LOWEST PRICE: \$295,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$465,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$394,500  
This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

## BY APPOINTMENT

6 Muir Avenue, Piedmont

This sun drenched Normandy is ideally located near Piedmont's fine schools. The over 1/3 LEVEL acre is professionally landscaped, and surrounds a lovely pool and 3-car garage.

4BR/3BA & powder room  
Beamed ceiling living room  
Formal dining room • New gourmet kitchen  
Updated baths • Main floor office  
Lovely stone patios



Offered at \$3,250,000

HELEN DANHAKL (510) 547-5750



## BY APPOINTMENT



6277 Wood Drive, Oakland

5+ bedrooms, 4++ baths - over 7,000 sq. ft. of luxury, including complete in-law unit. BAY VIEWS from most rooms and quality throughout.

Offered at \$1,800,000

HELEN DANHAKL (510) 547-5750



## New Listing in Urban Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2-4:30PM



1908 Oak Crest Drive, Oakland

As you enter this very special split level traditional home, you are impressed with the large, open sunny space. The space comes together with beautiful random plank hardwood floors, two sets of French doors opening to a brick patio, fireplace with a lovely wood mantel, dark wood moldings and trim and a wall of windows.

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths • Recreation room and office alcove  
Charming kitchen with eating area and access to grassy backyard  
2-car attached garage • Montclair schools

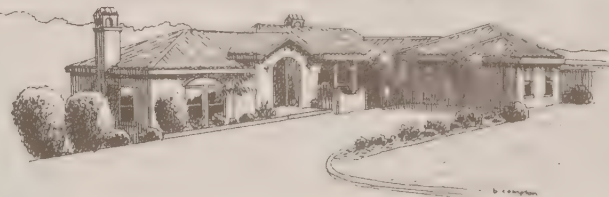
Offered at \$739,000

DONNA COSTELLA  
SENIOR SALES CONSULTANT • 510/338-1355



## New Listing in Hiller Highlands

OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 4 & 11, 2-5PM



6905 Norfolk Road, Oakland

A BLOOMIN' STEAL! A 4 year old Spanish Mediterranean with 4+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths in a private hilltop location. Wonderful level-in open floor plan. Big terraces and yard. VIEWS! Don't miss this one!

Offered at \$999,000

www.fritzsells homes.com

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Senior Sales Associate  
(510) 338-1348



## Open Sunday



**PIEDMONT \$3,495,000**  
35 MUIR AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
Stately English Tudor with 4+bedrooms, 4+ baths. Incredible architectural detail, library, family room & guest suite. Keith Tollas x13182



**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,379,000**  
6901 CONTRA COSTA RD. (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! Absolutely magnificent sweeping bay views. Architectural masterpiece. 5BR/4BA, beautiful formal rooms, lovely courtyard, landscaped yard. Superb craftsmanship throughout. Dee Knowland x1318

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,395,000**  
5416 GOLDEN GATE AVE. (Open 2-5)  
Light, airy & sophisticated. Wonderful spaces & fine craftsmanship. 4BR/3.5BA. Gourmet kitchen/rm. Au pair/guest suite. Home office w/separate entrance. James Duffy x1326

**PIEDMONT \$1,295,000**  
205 ST. JAMES DR. (Open 2-4:30)  
Sunny well maintained 3BR/3BA home. Huge family room, large office, eat-in updated kitchen & formal dining room. Level yard. Dick Cohen x1308

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,249,500**  
6363 CONTRA COSTA (Open 2-4:30)  
Reduced! Sophisticated 5+BR/3.5BA home. Fabulous designer kitchen, stunning SF bay views. Rear garden & charming patio. Great indoor/outdoor living. Rich Gould x1347



**PIEDMONT \$1,150,000**  
224 SAN CARLOS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
Charming 3 bedroom, 2+ bath home - level out to gardens. Separate 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Georgia Cornell x1325

# PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

www.pacunion.com

## Open Sunday



**HILLER HIGHLANDS \$999,000**  
6905 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-5)  
New Listing! 4yr old Spanish Mediterranean w/4+BR/3.5BA in a private hilltop location. Wonderful level-in open floor plan. Big terraces & yard. Views! Fritz Hochfellner x1348

**PIEDMONT \$995,000**  
119 RICARDO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
Warm, friendly Dutch Colonial on a great street, just a short distance from beautiful Dracena Park. 4BR/2.5BA, den/office, family room level-out to spacious yard. Formal dining. Debi Fitzgerald x1306

**MONTCLAIR \$995,000**  
8 WOODSIDE GLEN CT. (Open 1-5)  
Quality new construction. All level 4BR/2.5BA Mediterranean, great yard. Located in an exclusive neighborhood adjacent to Joaquin Miller Park. Near Montclair Village. Teri Carlisle x1305 & Francis Heath x1357

**MONTCLAIR \$899,000**  
45 VILLANOVA LN. (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! Serene 4BR/3BA contemporary w/bay views. Den, family room, large master suite. Freshly painted, newer carpets. Includes Hills Swim & Tennis Club membership. Dick Cohen x1308



**UPPER OAKMORE \$739,000**  
1908 OAK CREST DR. (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! Special split level 3BR/2.5BA traditional. French doors to brick patio, rec room & office alcove, lovely wood details, 2-car garage. Montclair schools. Donna Costella x1355

## Open Sunday



**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$685,000**  
5360 ESTATES DR. (Open 2-4:30)  
3BR/2BA updated contemporary. Great room living room w/fireplace. Updated kitchen w/granite, updated baths. Wooded & hill view. Convenient location. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

**PARKRIDGE ESTATES \$629,000**  
12665 BROOKPARK RD. (Open 2-5)  
All-level home on over 1/4 acre level lot! Open, bright floorplan w/4BR/2.5BA, family room, hardwood floors & 2-car attached garage. Vicki Woodhead x1334



**OAKLAND HILLS \$619,000**  
4629 DAVENPORT AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
Classic Art Moderne home designed by Frederick Conter. Unique 4BR/2BA w/SE Oakland, bay views. Custom kitchen, 2 fireplaces, family room. Large lot w/mature landscaping. Christian Downer x1340

**REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$529,000**  
4403 NORTON AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! 3BR/1.5BA. Random plank hardwood floors in living/dining room. Eat-in kitchen, attached 2-car garage. Corner lot, cosmetic fixer. Lee Jacobson 1309

**LAUREL \$375,000**  
4046 39TH AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
Charming 1915 cottage on approx 14850sf lot. Cozy 2BR/1BA w/workshop in basement. Orchard in deep rear yard w/SF/bay views. Diane Earl McCan x1352

## Open Sunday



**OAKLAND \$350,000**  
4056 BURCKHALTER AVE. (Open 2-4:30)  
Sweet 2BR/1BA home set back from the street on a cul-de-sac. Newer carpets & roof, dual paned windows. Huge detached 2-car garage. Kathy Flynn x1317

**ADAMS POINT \$239,000**  
250 MONTECITO AVE. #204 (Open 2-4:30)  
Spacious & bright 1BR/1BA condominium near Lake Merritt. Large living room w/balcony, dining area. Carla Buffington x1367

**ADAMS POINT \$229,000**  
350 PERKINS ST. #106 (Open 2-5)  
New Listing! 1BR/1BA. Blocks to the Lake, Grand & Lakeshore! Large deck overlooking landscaped courtyard. Corner unit. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

## By Appointment

**PIEDMONT \$3,680,000**  
Lovely Mediterranean on a very desirable street. Ideal for comfortable living & large scale entertaining. Exceptional details. SF views. 7BR/6.5BA. Rosalie Woods x1324



**PIEDMONT \$3,250,000**  
Sun drenched 4BR/3BA Normandy. Formal dining room, gourmet kitchen, updated baths. On over 1/3 level landscaped acre w/ lovely pool, 3-car garage. Helen Danhaki x1356

## By Appointment



**MONTCLAIR \$1,800,000**  
New Listing! Piedmont side of Montclair. 5+BR/4+BA - over 7000 sq. ft. of luxury, including complete in-law unit. Bay views from most rooms. Quality throughout. Helen Danhaki x1356

**NORTH BERKELEY \$1,650,000**  
Extraordinary Maybeck & White Craftsman, lovingly restored. Cook's kitchen/great room; convenient, secluded location; spacious rental or office suite. See More @ www.pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339

**OAKLAND HILLS \$1,345,000**  
Almost new 4BR/3BA modern traditional on approx. one-half acre w/smashing unobstructed bay views. 3300+ sq. ft. Ultra private setting. Fritz Hochfellner x1348

**CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,295,000**  
Near Piedmont border. Exquisite light-filled 4BR/3BA Tudor. Lush gardens. Impeccably remodeled, spectacular architectural details. Leslie Avant x1341

**CRESTMONT \$699,000**  
Fabulous remodel w/open floor plan & sweeping bay views. 4BR/3BA. Lower level rec room opens to private, protected pool area. Convenient location. Charlotte Boyle x1370



**NEAR OAKMORE \$679,000**  
Traditional 4BR/2+BA w/bay views. Formal dining room, eat-in kitchen opens to family room. Custom woodworking. Private outdoor living including patios & hot tub. Robyn Mohr x1310

**PIEDMONT AVENUE \$549,000**  
Lovely 20's style home. Updated kitchen w/ O'Keefe & Merritt stove, hwdw flrs, built-ins, lovely windows. 2BR/1BA, garage, landscaped garden. Mary Monti x1350

**RICHMOND \$399,000**  
Lovely MacGregor style home. 3BR/1+BA, updated kitchen, rec room, great garden & attached garage. Spacious & light w/ hardwood floors. Mary Monti x1350

**MONTCLAIR LOT \$250,000**  
Over 1/4 acre lot w/wide frontage & a building pad on a quiet street. Possible bay view. Survey & soils report available. Wendy Gardner Ferrari x1303



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### 2704 Bayview Dr.



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#### New Listing

Beautiful beachfront duet home, completely remodeled with impeccable quality. Lush garden and views of the Bay and SF. Perfect location near Harbor Bay Club and Crown Beach. 3bd, 2.5 ba.

Offered at \$839,000

ALAIN PIN

### JUST LISTED - GRAND LAKE AREA

OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2:00-4:00 PM  
MONDAY APRIL 5 AND THURSDAY APRIL 8, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
SATURDAY APRIL 10, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

#### 572 Oakland Avenue Six-Unit Apartment Building

Offered at \$865,000



- Turn-of-the-century architecture
- Five one-bedroom one-bath units, one studio
- All units have lots of charm, some with hardwood floors, coved ceilings and some remodeled.
- Walk to Grand Lake and Piedmont Avenue Shops
- Easy access to freeways and public transportation
- Garage and Laundry Facilities

[www.BestEastBayProperties.com](http://www.BestEastBayProperties.com)

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### BAY AREA PROPERTIES

3088 Claremont Ave  
Berkeley

Diana Yonkowski  
510-597-0292

[baproperties.com](http://baproperties.com)

BAY AREA PROPERTIES

### LOTS of LOTS!

Many Development Opportunities!  
Build your dream home(s) with extensive bay views.

#### Oakland Hills...off Redwood Road

- 6,844 sq. ft. \$275,000
- 14,995 sq. ft. \$325,000
- 1.28 acres / 5 lots \$1,300,000

#### Oakland...Rockridge

- 3 acres/3 lots (possibly 9) \$1,500,000

#### Coming Soon!

Oakland Canyon Views ..... Berkeley Address  
• 10,619 sq. ft. \$525,000

See [www.baproperties.com](http://www.baproperties.com)

For more information and photos

### UPPER ROCKRIDGE 171 ALPINE TERRACE

Open Sunday 2-4:30  
Offered at: \$2,695,000

Elegance and sweeping Bay views combine to create a lasting impression with this spectacular 5+ bedroom, 4.5 bath Mediterranean. The artistic blend of leaded glass, custom light fixtures and intricate Old World design are a feast for the eyes. Surrounded by 1/4 acre and expertly designed, this ultimate home brings together a brilliant fusion of art and architecture seldom experienced.



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### Carol A. Warren Company REAL ESTATE BROKERS

#### 174 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland

\$699,000

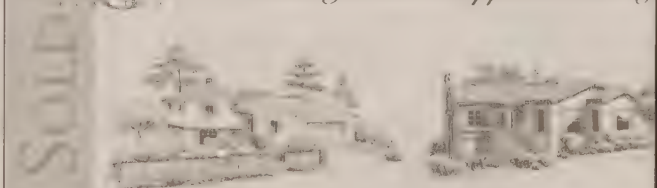
Stately, approx. 3,000 sq. ft. Traditional with Roman Temple detail hidden behind a lush foliage screen in Grand/Lake/Rose Garden area. This refurbished 5 bedroom home, including a master with study, central floor plan with formal dining & living room featuring built-ins & French doors is awesome. There is a 2 room sun porch & architectural features throughout. Refurbished, it has shiny hardwood floors, 3 sunlight throughout, 3 pantries & lots of cabinets. Back overlooking your beautiful perfect for grand entertaining.

PENDING



Carol Warren, Broker  
Phone: (510) 652-4800  
Fax: (510) 652-1313  
E-Mail: [cawcompany@earthlink.net](mailto:cawcompany@earthlink.net)

### The GRUBB Co. Recently Sold in Upper Rockridge



#### 5887 Margarido Drive

Originally offered at \$1,195,000  
Sold with multiple offers

#### 86 Sonia Street

Originally offered at \$785,000  
Sold with multiple offers

Represented the Sellers



KATHERINE COOPER  
OFFICE: 339.0400/211  
[cooper@grubbco.com](mailto:cooper@grubbco.com)  
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit [GRUBBCO.COM](http://GRUBBCO.COM) for  
Photo Tours of current listings

### JUST LISTED Sunday Open House 2:00-4:30PM



#### 2330 8th Street, Berkeley

Great compound or investment opportunity! This fourplex has NO RENT CONTROL. Coin laundry. Deep lot, fenced off-street parking and a quiet, sunny backyard. Nice neighborhood.

Offered at \$735,000

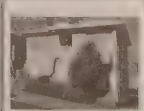


ORTRUN NIESAR  
Prudential  
California Realty  
The Claremont Office  
2 Tunnel Road, Berkeley 94705  
510-845-0211 OFFICE  
510-986-9560 DIRECT  
510-326-2161 CELL

### A sampling of our current listings:



**El Sobrante**  
Beautiful, well maintained 3br/2ba home in a great location. Bonus family room, huge back yard with big deck & views. 2 car s/s garage. New paint inside & out. Move-in condition.  
\$424,500

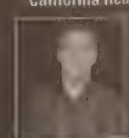


**Diamond District - Oakland**  
Handsome 3-unit building on large lot with plenty of off street parking. Two-bedroom unit on top floor and one-bedroom unit on lower floor will be vacant at close of escrow. Hardwood floors; two fireplaces.  
\$589,000

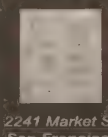


**Russian Hill**  
Great pied-a-terre. Remodeled studio with walk-out balcony and panoramic Bay views. 1 car parking, 24-hour door person, on-site manager. Ideal location near Ghirardelli Sq., the Cannery, Fisherman's wharf, restaurants shops and transportation.  
\$249,900

### Prudential California Realty



Jim Hedges  
manager  
[sfunionjim@aol.com](mailto:sfunionjim@aol.com)



2241 Market St.  
San Francisco



2200 Union St.  
San Francisco

415-762-9399





619 Mariposa Avenue, Oakland

This spacious and airy 1908 Early Tudor Revival, on a wooded double lot one block from the Rose Garden, has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, full basement with wine racks, sun room, remodeled kitchen with Wolf range, huge unfinished third floor with exposed beams. Original antique light fixtures, mahogany fireplace. Possible owner financing. Three blocks to I-580.

\$1,150,000

**Open House**  
Sunday, April 4th,  
2:00-4:30 pm  
Agents Welcome  
(510) 812-8850

### Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination "Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings, advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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7TH FLOOR STUDIO APARTMENT**

**\$145,000!**

GREAT BERKELEY HILLS, CAMONILE AND MT. TAM VIEWS

**COLLEEN LARKIN** **THORNWALL**  
Properties

(510) 848-1950 x 240

PLEASE REMEMBER

### Real Estate Advertising Deadlines

Space Reservations <b>MONDAY, 12 Noon</b>	Copy Requiring Typesetting <b>MONDAY, 5 pm</b>
Copy & Artwork <b>TUESDAY, 12 Noon</b>	Open Home Guide <b>WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon</b>

705 E. 15th Street, Oakland



Exchange? 10 Units w/ courtyard & separate garages. 8-1bd rms & 2-2bd rms, 1 ba near Chinatown, Lake Merritt & around the corner from Laney Jr. College. This one's in good shape, has great location and has condo possibilities. Go to [www.NathanFrater.com](http://www.NathanFrater.com) for a virtual tour.

Asking \$2,200,000

**Nathan Frater • CENTURY 21 Advantage**  
(831) 261-5742 or (831) 443-8180

**RED OAK REALTY**

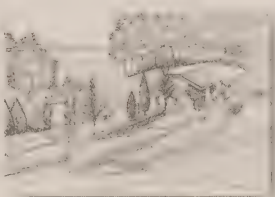
[www.redoakrealty.com](http://www.redoakrealty.com)

Homes Open Sunday

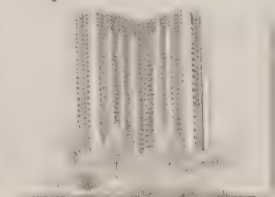
### Premier Properties



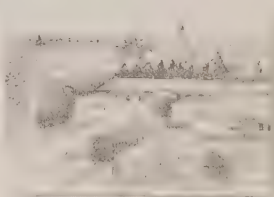
**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$625,000**  
4/2.5 - Large rambling Craftsman has been well maintained. Expanded in the past, the hardwood floors and charm are still there. Close to everything: BART, Monterey Market, downtown, UC Berkeley Storage galore! All on one of Berkeley's quiet streets  
1605 Grant Street Open 2-4



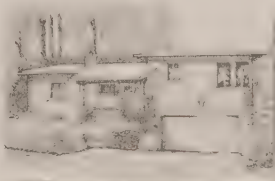
**BERKELEY \$2,200,000**  
4/3 - A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Mesmerizing panoramic Golden Gate, Bay, & San Francisco views from every room. Approximately 2.87 acre paradise overlooks UC Berkeley. 3,575 square foot, two-level home  
3090 Buena Vista Way Open 2-5



**EMERYVILLE \$1,320,000**  
2/2.5 - Emeryville's Premier Luxury High-rise. Sweeping Bay view and custom finishes highlight this spectacular penthouse residence. A must see for the discriminating buyer. More information & photos at [www.patrickleaper.com](http://www.patrickleaper.com)  
6363 Christie Avenue #2924 Open 1-4



**OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$349,000**  
2/2 - Spectacular Lake Merritt view condo. Totally renovated: new kitchen, new baths, new carpet and flooring. 1,098 square feet. Nothing to do but move right in and enjoy breakfast on your new balcony! Call Alex for financing at 510-292-2020  
85 Vernon Street Open 2-4



**BERKELEY \$475,000**  
2/1 - Cozy mountain retreat with peek-a-boo Bay views. Curved brick fireplace in living room. Large fenced yard. Potential for expansion  
1076 Cragmont Avenue Open 2-4



**RICHMOND - NEW LISTING! \$389,000**  
2+/1.5 - 1941 rejuvenated split-level bungalow. Custom Ikea Kitchen, formal dining room, family room, garage, workshop, separate studio  
4015 Clinton Avenue Open 2-4:30



**RICHMOND \$295,000**  
2/1 - Cute bungalow with updated kitchen & bath, hardwood floors and enclosed sunporch. Huge basement for expansion. Yard, fruit trees  
413 Nevin Avenue Open 2-4:30



**EL CERRITO \$424,000**  
2/1 - Move-in condition! Located on the hillside. Hardwood floors, many upgrades. Beautifully landscaped front and back yards  
7409 Seaview Place Open 2-4:30

### By Appointment



**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$799,000**  
RESIDENTIAL INCOME - Charming 7 unit building near UC Berkeley. One 2-bedroom with deck and garden. Other units are 1-bedrooms and studios. GM: 10.3 CAP: 5.1



**BERKELEY \$999,500**  
Two buildings on one lot. One is a great raised basement Craftsman house with all the built-ins. The other has historically been used as a residential care facility. Lots of off street parking



**ALBANY \$589,000**  
2+/2 - Wonderfully remodeled split-level home, half a block from Solano Avenue. Au pair suite with separate entrance & full bath. Large deck and sunny, level back yard



**OAKLAND \$589,000**  
3/1 - Mint condition, light-filled, split-level Craftsman minutes from Glenview, Oakmore & Montclair shops & restaurants. Hardwood floors. Large brilliant yard with deck & patio.

**BERKELEY \$739,000**  
Duplex - Renovated, built in 1903. 2br/3ba owner's unit and 1bd/1ba apartment. Remodeled kitchens and baths, hardwood floors, all new systems

**BERKELEY \$489,000**  
2+/1 - Craftsman bungalow. Living room with built-ins and wood burning stove, formal dining room. Bonus room could be 3rd bedroom or ideal for home office. Lovely garden oasis.

**EL CERRITO \$419,000**  
2/1 - Semi-fixer opportunity in neighborhood of larger, more expensive homes. Golden Gate views. Large deck, private yard, down stairs spaces. Attached garage

**LAFAYETTE \$650,000**  
3/1 - Home Sweet Home! Charming, private ranch-style starter. Hardwood floors, fresh paint, dual-pane windows. Convenient to BART, downtown, reservoir

1891 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707  
510.527.3387

2983 College Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
510.849.9990

2099 Pleasant Valley  
Oakland, CA 94611  
510.292.2000

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**JUST LISTED - OPEN SUN 2-4:30**



**MONTCLAIR VIEW HOME**  
6343 FAIRLAND DRIVE

4 bedrooms, 4 baths, main living on one level, bedroom & bath on lower level, sweeping SF Bay views, easy indoor-outdoor living, private level yard, large lot, built in 1993.

*Offered at \$869,000*




For experience, diligence & professionalism, call Dian Hymer the next time you plan to buy or sell a home.

**Dian Hymer, CRS**  
Associate Broker  
#1 agent Oakland/Piedmont office  
510-339-4777  
Photo tours@dianhymer.com

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**OPEN SUNDAY**



**OAKLAND**

Old world charm and lovely period elements abound in this classic home constructed in 1935. This elegant home is beautifully situated on expansive grounds accentuated by redwood, fruit & oak trees, a Renaissance Courtyard, sweeping Bay, San Francisco, Golden Gate & Bay Bridge views and an in-ground pool. Long a focal point in Oakland's Oakmore neighborhood this special home has never before been on the market for sale.

*Offered at \$2,300,000*



**Open To The Public**  
Sunday, April 4 • 1:00-5:00

**Terry Kulka**  
510-339-4789  
terrykulka@att.net

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**Marvelous Contemporary**  
**Open Sunday**  
**1 - 5 pm**

**6646 Saroni Dr. Montclair \$739,000**

**5 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 2,790 Living Sq.Ft.**

**Scott Thompson, Realtor® eCertified®**  
President's Circle 2003 510-410-2003 Direct


**Prudential**  
California Realty


**COLDWELL BANKER**

**Elmwood Storybook Charmer**  
**2929 Linden Avenue, Berkeley**

Lovely Craftsman home located within walking distance to College Avenue, BART and the Claremont. This light and bright storybook charmer embraces original craftsman touches and boasts 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, a large kitchen and elegant formal dining and living rooms. Enjoy extra features that include an enclosed front porch, a bonus room for an office or studio, hardwood floors and a wood burning fireplace. A spacious, fully enclosed back yard and lovely front yard combine to make this gem a winner!

*Offered at \$789,000*





**PATTI CAMRAS & KIM MCATEE**  
510.502.0874  
5 Orinda Way, Orinda

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**Upper Oakmore**

**OPEN SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 4th**



**2001 Rosecrest Dr.**  
*Country living in the City*

Located on a private drive at the top of Oakmore sits this lovely all level home designed for easy yet elegant living. The park like yard sits on almost 1/2 acre and features mature landscaping including redwoods, azaleas, cedar and a stunning Ginkgo tree. An oversized master suite complete with new bath, 2 more bedrooms and a den and kitchen that opens to the living, dining room all look out to lovely green vignettes. And there's plenty of room to roam. Don't miss seeing this special Home!



*Offered at \$1,049,000*

**Donna Conroy 510-339-4723**  
**Karyn Selby Miller 510-339-4799**

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**HERITAGE REAL ESTATE**  
**FINE HOMES & ESTATES**  
heritagerealestate.com

**LAFAYETTE**  
*Open Sun 1-4:30pm*



**Lafayette**  
Pristine single-level 4 BR / 3.5 BA. Contemporary with view of Mt. Diablo. Private and serene setting at end of cul-de-sac.

**\$1,050,000**

Mary Schulze (925)935-9100

**MONTCLAIR**  
*Open Sun 2-4:00pm*



**Montclair**  
New construction now at a great price! Compare values with any other new construction. Beautiful kitchen with granite counters. Hardwood floors. 4 BR / 3 BA. Master suite. Many extras. Terraced back yard plus decks.

**\$859,000**

Mel Copland (510)339-8900

**HILLER HIGHLANDS**  
*Open Sun 2-4:30pm*



**Hiller Highlands**  
New listing! Wonderful end unit on one of Hiller Highland's preferred streets. Panoramic 3-bridge view. Secluded garden/patio, open floor plan with vaulted ceiling. Walk to Highlands Country Club. 3 BR / 3 BA

**\$759,000**

Gayle Tantau (510)339-8900

**MONTCLAIR**  
*Open Sun 1-4:00pm*



**Montclair**  
Wonderful 3-story Montclair contemporary boasts serene canyon view. Over 2100 sq. ft. of living space. Offers 3 BR / 2 BA, 4 dec. Elevator. Ample basement storage. Copper-clad wood burning fireplace.

**\$659,000**

Leslie Suh / Julie Harper (925)314-1141

**REDWOOD HEIGHTS**  
*Open Sun 2-4:30pm*



**Redwood Heights**  
English style home, large living room, formal dining room, newly updated kitchen cabinets with granite countertops. 3BR / 1 BA. Hardwood floors. Beautiful yards and patio off kitchen. Drop by - it is worth the look!

**\$599,000**

Mel Copland (510)339-8900

**JACK LONDON SQUARE**  
*Open Sun 2-4:30pm*



**Jack London Square**  
Hi-tech chic live/work loft. Approx 1,475 sq. ft. of flexible living space. San Francisco city & bay views from this appealing Country English traditional. 3 BR / BA, 2 "plus" rooms. Large "L" shaped fenced lot with room for garden or play. 2-car detached garage. Remodeled kitchen and bathroom.

**\$535,000**

Jody Dworzak (510)339-8900

**MAXWELL PARK**  
*Open Sun 2-4:30pm*



**Maxwell Park**  
Spacious 4 BR / 2.5 BA home in the Oakland Hills. Beautiful and peaceful canyon views. Great home for entertaining. Many new upgrades including kitchen and bath. Bamboo floors, new carpets, large lot.

**\$470,000**

Helen Nicholas (510)339-8900

**LAKE MERRITT**



**Lake Merritt**  
Sweeping views of downtown Oakland, the Lake and out to the San Francisco Peninsula Hills from this 2 BR / 2 BA co-op in Oakland's lakefront "White Glove" bldg. Includes 1,600+ sq. ft. floor plan, formal dining room, an eat-in kitchen. 24 hr. doorman service. Call for appointment.

**\$400,000**

Tom Erwin (510)339-8900

**Moraga**  
*OPEN SUN 1:00-4:00 PM*



**Moraga**  
Newly updated 2-story Clausen built home in Moraga Place. 5 BR / 3 BA. 1 BR / full BA on lower level. Vaulted ceilings in master bedrooms and living room. True park-like yard with lush lawn and relaxing spa.

**\$1,160,000**

Kay Lanway (925)935-9100

**Grand Lake**  
*COMING SOON*



**Grand Lake**  
Small building penthouse with urban views. This 2 BR / 2 BA condo has superb finishes - granite, marble, slate and excellent floor plan for entertaining. "Great Room" with 15' ceilings. Other amenities include a solarium, a private deck, a Jacuzzi bath and two secure parking spaces.

**\$488,000**

Tom Erwin (510)339-8900

**Oakland**  
*OPEN SUN 2:00-4:30 PM*



**Oakland**  
Opportunity knocks. Four-plex on a very large lot. Three 1/1 units, one studio unit plus additional space with bath. Newer kitchen appliances and charming built-ins.

**\$425,000**

Deb Riney (510)339-8900

**Distinguished Home of the Week - RIDGEMONT**  
*Open Sun 2-4:30pm*



**\$1,299,999**

**Mel Copland**  
(510)339-8900

**Oakland**  
*OPEN SAT 12-3 PM*



**Oakland**  
Contemporary loft - it is ideal for an artist. 1 BR / 1 BA with 22 ceiling huge skylights. Large upstairs BR. Beautiful natural wood ceiling beams. Close to Emeryville shops and freeway.

**\$329,000**

Rob Gomberg (925)314-1141

**Lake / Chinatown**



**Lake / Chinatown**  
Near BART. Huge & luxurious hi-rise co-op apt. Like a condo with all the financial requisites. A real bargain! 1,600+ sq. ft. 2 BR / 2 BA. 24 hr. doorman. Rooftop area with panoramic views. Luxury quality, and security.

**\$329,000**

D.C. Hodges (510)339-8900

**Oakland**  
*OPEN SAT 12-3 PM*



**Oakland**  
Contractor Special Fire damaged fixer. Formerly used as a 5 BR. 1620 sq. ft. home. Make it into a dream home - opportunity knocks.

**\$249,000**

Deb Riney (510)339-8900

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**BERKELEY HILLS REALTY**

510.524.9888  
www.berkhills.com

**View Photo Tours on the Web**

**1015 Alvarado Rd., Berkeley**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 – 4:30**  
*New List!* Meticulous attention to detail and design in this modern 3 bdrm, 3.5 bath custom-built home. Views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Claremont Canyon. Kitchen/ great room opens to spacious patio and large in-ground spa.  
**Joan Brunswick 524-9888 x12 \$1,395,000**

**1011 Villa Nueva, El Cerrito**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00**  
*New List!* A little TLC will turn this 5-bdrm, 3-bath property into a fabulous home. Level-in tile entry opens to living room w/ vaulted ceiling & flagstone flrpl., formal dining room, library w/ built-in bookshelves & drawers, kitchen w/ lots of cabinets & spacious dining area off courtyard patio, master suite w/ bath & 2 more bdrms w/ central bath, big rec room, 2 full bdrms, bath, laundry, & huge unfinished room w/ massive storage. Secluded level back garden.  
**Kay & Gay 524-9888 x51 \$698,000**

**1317 Mariposa, Richmond Annex**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00**  
*New List!* 4 bdrm, 2 bath. Sophisticated newer (1989) home with beautiful kitchen and fabulous light. Modern home touches such as a walk-in closet in the master bedroom and an attached garage make this home truly livable. Living room has a wonderful open concept feel accented by a pretty fireplace. Fabulous condition.  
**Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x33 \$399,000**

*"I wanted to thank you for all your help selling the house. In retrospect it seems like the time flew by with no stress at all. We appreciate all that you have done! Please use us as a reference any time so we can repay all that you have done for us."*  
**—T. B. & S. B., Albany**

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**The GRUBB Co.**

**670 Vernon Street # 305**  
**OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30.** Spacious one bedroom condominium in a beautiful building. Den with fireplace. Serene and private location with views of Oakland's Rose Garden.  
**Offered at \$350,000**

**ANGELA WEI GRUBB**  
**OFFICE: 339.0400202**  
**awgrubb@grubbco.com**

Visit **GRUBBCO.COM** for Photo Tours of this and other current listings.

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RATE	APR	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
<b>4.875%</b>	<b>5.906%</b>	<b>5.625%</b>	<b>5.644%</b>	<b>5.75%</b>	<b>5.763%</b>

**510 748-8904**

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**email: BrydonB@BankofAlameda.com**

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5.906% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$333,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term 15 yrs. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$333,700 is approximately \$2,148. 5.644% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$333,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term 30 yrs. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$333,700 is approximately \$1,927. 5.763% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to market conditions. Payment is \$2,918. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary single family residences, low income, and condominiums. No cash back. Restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualification and underwriting. Bank of Alameda is an Equal Housing Lender.

**Prudential California Realty**

**FEATURED HOMES**

**Private Urban Villa \$2,795,000**  
 1922 Claremont beauty, 1/2 acre, 5+BR/3+BA, large rooms, mature gardens.  
**Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$669,000**  
 2414 Dowling Pl., Berkeley. Charming Elmwood Victorian, 3BR/1.25BA, attic, yard.  
**Roy Grigsby (510) 845-0211**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$449,000**  
 2338 Mono, El Cerrito. Charming Poinsett Park, 2+BR house, Bay views, extra large yard.  
**Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400/1487**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$389,000**  
 4546 Virginia, Maxwell Park, 2+BR Mediterranean with studio and great backyard.  
**Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400/1487**

**OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$299,000**  
 2935 E. 16th St., Oakland. Home on super-size lot. 3BR/1BA, zoned multiple units.  
**CP Yang (510) 834-2010**

**Oakland/Piedmont**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$2,695,000**  
 171 Alpine Terrace. Spectacular 5+BR/4.5BA Bay view Mediterranean.  
**Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$949,000**  
 6820 Thornhill. Lovely 4BR/4BA Mediterranean retreat w/ many upgrades.  
**Katie O'Shea (510) 339-9290**

**OPEN Sunday 1-5 \$739,000**  
 6646 Saroni Dr., 5BR/3.5BA, large family room, form din/liv rm, updated.  
**Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900**

**OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$649,000**  
 1185 Holman Rd., Crocker Highlands. 3BR/2BA, 1700+ sq. ft., lovely hwd floor.  
**Cary Amo (925) 283-7000**

**OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$639,000**  
 687 61st N. Oakland. 5BR/3BA, 2 kitchens w/ rentable in-law.  
**Tom Wright (510) 504-6029**

**OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$629,000**  
 805 Mandana. Adorable 2+BR/1+BA home. Remodeled + upgraded with style!  
**Dolores Thom (510) 834-2010**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$539,000**  
 7982 Michigan. Great 3+BR/1BA w/ new kitchen/bath. Move-in condition.  
**Dollie Henson (510) 339-9290**

**OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$499,000**  
 3550 E. 9th St. Magnificent, freestanding Fruitvale loft w/ arch. Stunning appeal.  
**View virtual tour @ www.pruerealty.com/EricSilverman**  
**Eric N. Silverman (510) 428-0900**

**Oakland/Piedmont**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$489,000**  
 6200 Leona St. Charming 2+BR/1BA home in Oakland Hills.  
**Santilena.com (510) 339-9290**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$469,000**  
 4282 Knoll Avenue. Excellent 2BR/1BA ranch-style retreat!  
**Michael Stephens (510) 339-9290**

**Fruitvale \$399,000**  
 Fixer opportunity! Over 1800 sq. ft., 7BR/3BA, lg lot, do not miss!  
**Aliki Vasdekis (510) 845-0211**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$359,000**  
 2923 E. 17th St. 2BR/2BA, fresh throughout. Hwd floors, huge yard.  
**Camille Rogers (510) 845-0211**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$312,000**  
 3206 Hannah. Great loft, move-in condition! All appliances stay.  
**Carmen Grim (510) 845-0211**

**OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$304,000**  
 5628 Laverne Ave. Classic craftsman. Very lg 2BR/1BA. Upgrades.  
**Heather (510) 845-0211**

**OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$279,000**  
 2326 Maywood Ave. Charming 2BR hardwood floors, fireplace, 2-car gar.  
**Carole Knowles (510) 868-1400/1550**

**OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$255,000**  
 1914 70th Ave. Nice 2BR/1BA, turn-key condition, super clean!  
**Demetrius Wilson (510) 834-2010**

**Alameda**

**SFR or Duplex! \$933,000**  
 A magnificently beautiful & stately residence towers 3 stories!  
**Ms. "Sam" McDowell (510) 337-8670**

**San Leandro**

**OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$390,000**  
 1350 Post Ave. San Leandro mid-century. 3BR/1BA manor. 1st open!  
**JohnWesleyRealtor.com (510) 339-9290**

**Contra Costa**

**OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$579,000**  
 63 Sandpoint Dr., Richmond. 2+BR/3 full BA. Close to Yacht Club, shop, fwy.  
**Michael Wong (510) 527-9800**

**OPEN Sunday 1-5 \$259,000**  
 2970 Estates Ave., Pinole Valley. Clean condo, 2BR/2BA end unit. 2-car garage.  
**Victoria Curtis (510) 527-9800**

**ALAMEDA**  
510-337-8670

**BERKELEY REGIONAL**  
510-868-1400

**CLAREMONT**  
510-845-0211

**EL CERRITO**  
510-527-9800

**GRAND LAKE**  
510-874-2010

**MONTCLAIR**  
510-339-9290

**PIEDMONT**  
510-428-0900

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Contact the real estate editor at 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com.

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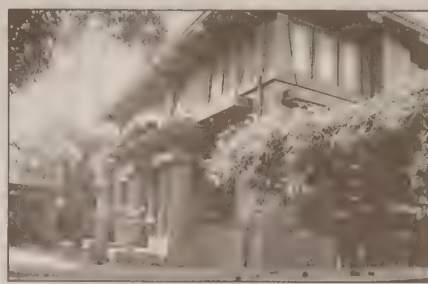


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## Weekend OPEN HOMES

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Alameda	Berkeley	Martinez	Oakland	Oakland
\$245,000 1333 Webster St 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Park Webster Prudential CA Realty Lucia Corvino	\$475,000 1076 Cragmont Ave. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-292-2013 Red Oak Realty Todd Andrew	\$417,000 4896 Starflower Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-5 Sunrise Ridge 510-851-5986 Keller Williams Realty Joanne Madlung	\$389,000 3355 Birdsall 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Maxwell Park 510-531-7000 x228 Wells & Bennett Realtors Kate Phillips	\$599,000 4058 Whittle Avenue 3+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Fruitvale 510-482-0000 Better Homes/Montclair Patricia Bennis
\$250,000 307 Pacific Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4836 Harbor Bay Realty Nina Quan	\$495,000 3029 Ellis Street 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Nacio Brown	\$230,000 424 Orange St. #105 -BD/1BA Sun 2-5 Adams Point 834-2010 Prudential Grand Lake Demetrius Wilson	\$389,000 4546 Virginia 2+BD/1+BA Sun 2-4:30 Maxwell Park 510-868-1487 Prudential Berkeley Barbara Reynolds	\$599,000 6658 Charing Cross Rd. 3+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Sherry Benning
\$265,000 1722 2nd St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4836 Harbor Bay Realty Nina Quan	\$625,000 1605 Grant Street 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4 510-280-2108 Red Oak Realty Robin Kingsbury	\$199,000 250 Whitmore #112 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 869-3649 Prudential Grand Lake Arlene Swain	\$399,000 1043 Stanford Avenue 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland 510-339-4565 Better Homes/Montclair Maria Sinclair	\$600,000 7215 Rudsdales Street -BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 House+Duplex 510-339-9200 Prudential Montclair Dolie Hens
\$279,500 229 Cypress 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4884/814-4889 Harbor Bay Realty Izabella Lipetski/Karen Wellman	\$649,000 1929 Cedar 3BD/2BA OPEN 2-4:30 510913-6000 Investment House Realty Jeanne Yeh, Bkr.	\$220,000 10 Moss Avenue #12 1BD/1BA Sun 2-5 Rose Garden 510-845-0211 Prudential Claremont Barbara Levy	\$399,000 801 Alleen St. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 No. Oakland 510-748-5300 The Homes-Link Team	\$610,000 5453 Harbord Drive 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-339-4400 Better Homes/Montclair Mary Jane McCon
\$285,000 9 Mastick Court 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-919-3204 Kane & Associates Dede Cunningham	\$650,000 2938 Ellis Street -BD/-BA Sun 2-4:30 Duplex 510-339-4000 Better Homes/Montclair Jim Schubert	\$229,000 350 Perkins #106 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point 510-338-1354 Pacific Union GMAC R.E. Jennie A. Flanigan	\$410,000 7701 Crest Avenue 3BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 King Estate 510-339-4000 Better Homes/Montclair Joe Ashton	\$619,000 4629 Davenport 4BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-338-9000 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Christian Down
\$415,000 301 Broadway #204 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-919-5485 Kane & Associates John Bergman	\$669,000 2414 Dowling Place 3BD/1.25BA Sun 2-4:30 Elmwood 510-854-0211 Prudential Claremont Roy Grigsby	\$235,000 5806 Kingsley Circle 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Mills College 925-467-5544 Keller Williams Realty Cameron Sterling	\$425,000 1531 E. 15th St. 4BD/5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-6160 x216 C21 Heritage Real Estate Deb Riney	\$629,000 12665 Brookpark Rd. 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-5 Parkridge Estates 510-338-1313 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Vicki Woodhams
\$434,500 201 Lagunaria Ln 2BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4819 Harbor Bay Realty Nancy Bianchi	\$735,000 2330 8th Street -BD/-BA Sun 2-4:30 4 Units 510-854-0211 Prudential Claremont Ortrun Niesar	\$239,000 250 Montecito #204 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point 510-338-1367 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Carla Buffington	\$449,000 4119 Manila Avenue 2+BD/1+BA Sun 2-4:30 Temescal 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Ann Vandyke	\$629,000 805 Mandana Blvd. 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands 510-834-2200 Prudential CA Realty Dolores The
\$450,000 1234 Pease Ct. 1BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4891 Harbor Bay Realty George Muhr	\$799,000 1275 Campus Drive 4+BD/4BA Sun 2-5 Berkeley Hills 510-428-0900 Prudential Piedmont Tom Kilgallen	\$249,500 555 Jean St #430 1BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 Rose Garden 510-507-5664 Keller Williams Sherry Long	\$469,000 4282 Knoll Avenue 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Leona Heights 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair Michael Stephens	\$659,000 6450 Oakwood 3BD/3BA Sun 1-4 510-339-9999 C21 Heritage Real Estate J. Harper/L...
\$499,000 1019 Kingston Ln 3BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4847 Harbor Bay Realty Chuck Bianchi	\$895,000 3025 Shattuck Ave 6BD/3+BA Open Sun 2-5 707-751-0314 Help-U-Sell Berkeley Properties Jerrit Curry	\$255,000 1914 70th Avenue 2BD/1BA Sun 2-5 Eastmont 834-2010 Prudential Grand Lake Demetrius Wilson	\$479,900 1401 Excelsior Ave. 3BD/1BA Sun 1-4 925-934-2900 x175 Keller Williams Realty Francis Mazzuca	\$685,000 5360 Estates 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-338-1313 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Jeffrey Himm
\$519,000 116 Centre Court 2BD/2.5BA Sun 1-4pm 510-521-1177 Windermere Properties East Bay Peter Fletcher	\$1,095,000 2151 Ashby -BD/-BA Sun 2-4 3 Units 510-854-0211 Prudential Claremont N. Platford	\$259,800 7371 Lockwood 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 510-531-7000 x249 Wells & Bennett Realtors Holda Novelo	\$499,000 6200 Leona Street 2+BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair Brian Santilena	\$699,000 174 Santa Clara Ave 5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30Grnd Lk/Rose Grdn 510-652-4000 Carol A. Warren Company Carol Warren
\$539,000 2852 Burgner Ave 2BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4874/814-4821 Harbor Bay Realty Mark Playsted/Elaine Millin	\$1,250,000 964 Indian Rock 4+BD/4BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Susie Schevill	\$270,000 862 22nd Street 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 West Oakland 510-339-4000 Better Homes/Montclair Yvonne Rice	\$490,000 3940 La Cresta Ave. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Glenview 510-531-7000 x242 Wells & Bennett Realtors Chris Christensen	\$699,000 525 Van Buren 3BD/1BA Open Sat/Sun 1-4 Grand Lake 510-869-5900 Keller Williams Realty Roxanne B...
\$569,000 3552 McSherry Way 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4710 Harbor Bay Realty Judy Jacobs	\$1,300,000 2601 Derby St. 5BD/3+BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Tricia Swift	\$270,000 862 22nd Street 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 West Oakland 510-339-4000 Better Homes/Montclair Yvonne Rice	\$495,000 4033 Maple Avenue 4BD/2BA Sun 1:30-4 Laurel 510-835-6026 Prudential Grand Lake Jackie Care	\$739,000 1908 Oak Crest 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Oakmore 510-338-1313 Pacific Union GMAC R.E. Donna Coffey
\$599,000 34 Invincible Ct 2+BD/3.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-331-0963 Kane & Associates Wendy Sanda	\$1,395,000 1015 Alvarado Rd 3BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-524-9888x12 Berkeley Hills Realty Joan Brunswick	\$279,000 2240 82nd Avenue 2BD/1BA Sun 1-3 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Jeffrey Neideman	\$505,000 1781 Clemens Rd. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 510-531-7000 x292 Wells & Bennett Realtors Carol Robbiano	\$739,000 6646 Saroni Dr 5BD/3BA Open Sun 1-5 510-338-1313 Prudential CA Realty Scott Thom
\$605,000 10 Miranda 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4892 Harbor Bay Realty Eunice Edwards	\$1,995,000 2729 Belrose Ave. 6+BD/4.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-439-0400 The Grubb Co. Bebe McRae	\$289,000 365 Perkins St. #206 2BD/1BA Sun 1-4 Adams Point 510-834-2010 Prudential Grand Lake Sandy Wong	\$519,950 637 56th St. 3BD/1.5BA Sun 1-3 N. Oakland 510-339-9999 Assist 2 Sell Howard Kane	\$739,000 6646 Saroni Drive 5BD/3BA Sun 1-5 Montclair 510-428-0000 Prudential Piedmont Scott Thom
\$615,000 1316 Hansen 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4714/814-4839 Harbor Bay Realty Barbara Bolton/Bill Douglas	\$2,200,000 3090 Buena Vista 4BD/3BA Sun 2-5 510-280-2139 Red Oak Realty Diane Ohlsson	\$289,000 876 McElroy St 2BD/1.5BA Open Sat & Sun 12-5 510-814-4706 Harbor Bay Realty Kathleen Hirsch	\$520,000 1886 Tiffin Rd. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Oakmore 510-531-7000 x246 Wells & Bennett Realtors Stan Hammond	\$749,000 1835 Trestle Glen 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont 510-338-1313 Better Homes/Montclair Nahid Nassir
\$620,000 2808 Windsor Dr. 3+BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-865-2800 Kane & Associates Lisa Lawley	\$419,000 6818 Cutting Blvd. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-559-2909 Marvin Gardens RE Terri Huang	\$299,000 2935 E. 16th Street 3BD/1BA Sun 1-4 Fruitvale 510-520-5462 Prudential Grand Lake C.P. Yang	\$529,000 4403 Norton Ave. 3BD/1+BA Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-338-1309 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Lee Jacobson	\$749,000 5815 Amy Drive 3 BD/1BA Open Sunday 1-4 510-602-3100 Better Homes Realty Jordan S...
\$648,000 3247 Encinal Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Duplex 510-747-1620 Gallagher & Lindsey Moon Tam	\$419,000 7431 Stockton Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-292-2015 Red Oak Realty Hila Azimzal	\$299,000 4099 Howe St #103 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 Piedmont Avenue 510-428-0900 Prudential CA Realty Bryan Salomone	\$535,000 737 2nd Street 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Jack London Sq. 510-339-8900 x299 C21 Heritage Real Estate Jody Dworak	\$759,000 27 Binnacle Hill 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands 510-339-9000 C21 Heritage Real Estate Gayle Tarr...
\$649,000 2719 Otis Dr 4BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4845 Harbor Bay Realty Marilyn Pomeroy	\$424,000 7409 Seaview Place 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2158 Red Oak Realty Jose Fernandez	\$299,750 199 Montecito Ave. #205 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point 510-531-7000 x218 Wells & Bennett Realtors Patsy Bulter	\$539,000 285 Adams St 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Katherine Cooper	\$779,000 280 Perkins 510-339-9000 Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Adams Point Re/Max East Bay Hills Dave Higgins
\$649,000 3273 Garfield Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4832/814-4870 Harbor Bay Realty Dania Alvarez-M/Pat. K	\$449,000 2338 Mono 2+BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 510-868-1487 Prudential Berkeley Barbara Reynolds	\$304,000 5628 Laverne Avenue 2BD/1BA Sun 2-5 510-854-0211 Prudential Claremont Heather	\$539,000 7982 Michigan Avenue 3+BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Moss Estates 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair Dolie Henson	\$799,000 2616 Beaconsfield Pl. 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-9000 The Grubb Co. Adam R...
\$650,000 2047 Eagle Ave 4BD/4BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-337-8670 Prudential CA Realty Lillian Liao	\$469,000 2434 Tulare 3BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-292-3055 Marvin Gardens RE Melissa Eizenberg	\$305,000 3825 High St #109 2BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 Laurel District 510-507-5664 Keller Williams Sherry Long	\$540,000 211 Beauforest Dr. 3BD/2BA Sun 1-4 510-339-9999 Assist 2 Sell Howard Kane	\$859,000 6831 Shepherd Canyon 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1313 C21 Heritage Real Estate Mel Coffey
\$680,000 1616 Clement Ave. 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30 510-882-2215 Kane & Associates Agnes Wu	\$595,000 2223 Pinehurst Way 3+BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-207-2968 Thornwall Properties Helen Walker	\$319,000 2626 11th Avenue 4BD/2BA Sun 1-4 Prudential Grand Lake 510-520-5462 C.P. Yang	\$550,000 1607 40th Ave 4BD/3BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Fruitvale 510-595-7699 Re/Max East Bay Hills Dave Higgins	\$869,000 6343 Fairlane Dr 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-9000 Coldwell Banker Dian H...
\$750,000 330 Tideway 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1101 Gallagher & Lindsey Ruth Masonice	\$698,000 1011 Villa Nueva 5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 510-524-9888x51 Berkeley Hills Realty Kay & Gay	\$349,000 85 Vernon Street 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-390-1021 Red Oak Realty Alannah Rayne Kern	\$569,000 9400 Mountain Blvd 5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1161/74-1164 Gallagher & Lindsey Jim Nations/Justine Francis	\$875,000 6833 Moore Dr. 5BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-531-7000 Wells & Bennett Realtors Frank Himm...
\$779,000 1634-1636 Broadway 3 1/1 - 2/1 Open Sat & Sun 2-4 2 houses/1 lot 510-483-1118 Gallagher & Lindsey Ty Weichhart	\$849,900 910 Leneve 4BD/3.5BA Sun 2-4 510-292-3048 Marvin Gardens RE M. Rhodes & C. Elliot	\$350,000 4056 Burckhalter 2BD/1+BA Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1317 Pacific Union GMAC R.E. Kathy Flynn	\$575,000 2675-2679 E. 27th St. 5BD/3BA Sun 1-4 Fruitvale/Triplex 510-339-9999 Assist 2 Sell Howard Kane	\$899,000 5526 Balboa Dr. 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-531-7000 Wells & Bennett Realtors Nicolette...
\$779,000 1532 Pacific Ave 2BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4828 Harbor Bay Realty Martha Turner	\$1,320,000 6363 Christie Ave. 2BD/2.5BA Sun 1-4 Unit 2924 510-280-2177 Red Oak Realty Merritt Levine	\$350,000 5718 Maccall Street 3BD/1.5BA Sun 2-5 North Oakland 510-834-2010 Prudential Grand Lake Natalie Lynch	\$575,000 3143 Wisconsin 2BD/1.5BA Sun 2-5 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Rachel Baller	\$949,000 6820 Thornhill Drive 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1313 Prudential Montclair Katie O...
\$799,000 1 Ratto Road 4BD/3BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-483-1676 Kane & Associates Krystyna Nowak	\$369,000 5 Commodore Dr 301 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Watergate 510-595-7699 Re/Max East Bay Hills Dave Higgins	\$350,000 670 Vernon St. #305 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Rose Garden 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Angela Wei Grubb	\$575,000 5557 Merriwood 3BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4550 Better Homes/Montclair Nahid Nassiri	\$975,000 5785 Country Club Dr. 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Pines 510-338-1313 The Grubb Co. Dana Coffey
\$925,000 1831 San Jose 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4710 Harbor Bay Realty Walt Jacobs	\$1,320,000 6363 Christie Ave. 2BD/2.5BA Sun 1-4 Unit 2924 510-280-2177 Red Oak Realty Merritt Levine	\$359,000 2923 E. 17th Street 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Fruitvale 510-854-0211 Prudential Claremont Camille Rogers	\$595,000 457 Hudson Street 2BD/1BA Sun 1-4:30 Rockridge 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Vicky Faulk	\$979,000 7 Bay Forest 510-338-1313 Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-338-1313 The Grubb Co. Sheila Goggin
\$1,300,000 1232 St. Charles 4BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-589-1908 Kane & Associates Hanna Fry	\$1,050,000 3383 St. Mary's Rd. 4+BD/3.5BA Sun 1-4 925-935-9100 x373 C21 Heritage Real Estate Mary Schulz	\$365,000 7572 Mountain Blvd. 2 BD/1.5 BA Open Sun 2-4 510-763-7395 Seville Real Estate Ernest Clark	\$595,000 479 60th Street 2BD/1BA Sun 1-5pm Rockridge 510-547-5970 x55 Lawton Associates Ron Kross	\$985,000 6023 Ascot Drive 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Pines 510-338-1313 The Grubb Co. Jean Simm...
\$419,000 957 Madison 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-662-8439 Security Pacific Geri Stern	\$1,995,000 1490 Rancho View Dr. 5BD/5.5BA Sun & Sun 1-4 925-253-4601/510-547-1615 Coldwell Banker Jerilyn Babington	\$375,000 4455 Masterson St. 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Laurel 510-531-7000 x295 Wells & Bennett Realtors Heidi Kearsey	\$599,000 3725-27 Coolidge Ave. 2+BD/1+BA Sun 2-4:30 Laurel 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Jill Carrigan	\$999,000 6905 Norfolk Rd. 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-5 Hiller Highlands 510-338-1313 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Fritz Hoch...



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Within walking distance to lake, Grand Lake Theater,  
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PERFECT STARTER HOME.

**BY APPOINTMENT**

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home at desirable East End.  
Lots of updates. Master bedroom has french  
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Detached workshop/storage and private fenced  
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Owner may even carry some \$\$\$

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Spacious 2 BD/1 BA. Detached garage, Large backyard.  
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soaring 20' ceiling. Kitchen/great room features hand-built African mahogany cabinets and  
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## Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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Oakland	Oakland	Orinda	Richmond
\$49,000 2001 Rosecrest Drive 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Oakmore 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Donna Conroy/Karyn Miller	\$1,780,000 5871 Buena Vista Ave. 5BD/3.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Debra J. Dryden	\$995,000 65 Muth Drive 4BD/3BA Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 510-339-4700 George Karsant	\$389,000 4015 Clinton Avenue 2+BD/1.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2185 Red Oak Realty Adrienne Broche'
\$95,000 4907 Cochrane Ave. 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Annie Walrand	\$1,780,000 5 Diabolo Drive 5BD/5.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker David Eckert	\$1,325,000 99 Via Fiorello 4BD/4BA Sun 1-5 925-253-4601/510-547-1615 Coldwell Banker Jerilyn Babington	\$399,000 1317 Mariposa 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Richmond Annex 510-524-9888x33 Berkeley Hills Realty Bill & Tracy
\$95,000 6501 Longwalk 5BD/4.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-531-7000 x263 Bis & Bennett Realtors Noll Davis	\$2,095,000 6807 Buckingham Blvd. 5BD/4+BA Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Steve Michaelides	<b>Piedmont</b>	\$399,000 4220 Roosevelt Ave. 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 Prudential California RE 510-525-2346 Carol Heath-Kim
\$75,000 2091 Tunnel Rd. 3+BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Kurt Buchholz	\$2,150,000 6343 Skyline 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4 Montclair 510-986-9556 Prudential Claremont Julie Lehman	\$825,000 1115 Winsor Ave 3BD/1.5BA open 1-4 510-547-3642 For Sale By Owner	\$399,980 4160 Bell Avenue 3BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-491-1222 Coldwell Banker Bartels Sam Cheng
\$95,000 6363 Contra Costa 5+BD/3.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-338-1347 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Rich Gould	\$2,300,000 2201 Bywood Dr. 4BD/4.5BA Sun 1-5 Oakmore 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Carol Brown	\$829,000 1023 Oakland Avenue 4BD/3BA Sun 2-5 Prudential Piedmont 510-428-0900	<b>San Leandro</b>
\$99,999 13506 Campus Drive 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Ridgmont 510-339-8900 Heritage Real Estate Mel Copland	\$2,300,000 6183 Acacia Ave. 5+BD/4.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Pines 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Carolyn Jones	\$888,000 348 Olive Ave. 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 925-989-8145 On Lone Properties Teresa Luebbert	\$360,000 2362 Belvedere Ave 2BD/1.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-250-3389 Kane & Associates Lynn Smith
\$90,000 6905 Elverton Drive 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Nancy Lehrkind	\$2,379,000 6301 Contra Costa 5BD/4BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-338-1318 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Dee Knowland	\$1,150,000 224 San Carlos 3+BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont 510-338-1325 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Georgia Cornell	\$390,000 1350 Post Avenue 3BD/1BA Sun 1-4 Prudential Montclair 510-339-9290 John Wesley
\$195,000 5416 Golden Gate Ave. 4BD/3.5BA Sun 2-5 Upper Rockridge 510-338-1326 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate James Duffy	\$2,395,000 1015 Grand View Dr. 5BD/4.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Hills 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Jill Carrigan	\$1,695,000 308 Pala Avenue 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Angela Wei Grubb	\$418,000 790 Frederick Rd 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-428-3118 Kane & Associates Kathie & Patrick Ng
\$480,000 6839 Elverton Dr. 5+BD/4.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-531-7000 x270 Bis & Bennett Realtors Antoine Pirson	\$2,695,000 171 Alpine Terrace 5+BD/4.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair Heidi Marchsotti	\$3,495,000 35 Muir 4+BD/4+BA Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont 510-338-1382 Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate Keith Tollas	<b>Vallejo</b>
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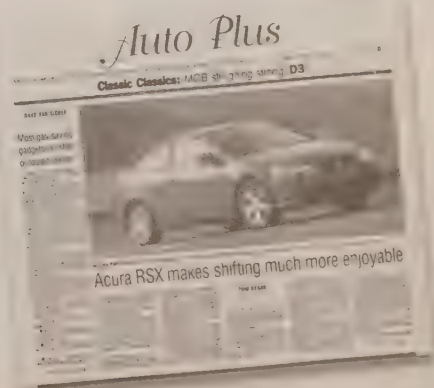
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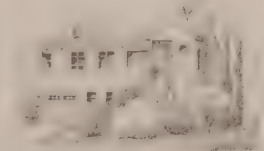
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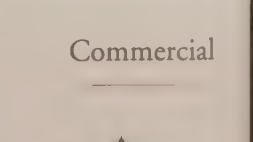
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FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY! Glenview duplex. Own your own separate "just like home" space offering 3 bedrooms, one bath, fireplace, eat-in kitchen overlooking rear garden. Nearly identical twin unit offers great investment! Off street parking, garage, walk to shopping/transportation. Great Neighborhood!  
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**CONCORD \$520,000**  
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# SPORTS

• Friday, April 2, 2004 •

Section C

## El Cerrito crumbles after poor start

Gauchos can't recover  
after falling behind 4-0  
in the first inning against  
the Jets

By Joe Stiglich  
STAFF WRITER

El Cerrito High School baseball coach Steve Werren didn't get a good vibe from his team before last Friday's game with Encinal and it didn't take long for his fears to be realized. The Gauchos fell behind 4-0 in the first inning and never recovered in a 12-2 loss to visiting Jets in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League opener for both teams. Werren said his team suffered from "a lack of intensity in the

### PREP BASEBALL

first inning. Too much screwing around in pregame. There's a fine line between being too tight and too loose, and we were too loose."

El Cerrito (1-7, 0-1 ACCAL) has endured five one-run losses already, but the Gauchos had only themselves to blame Friday after committing four errors and misplaying several other balls.

Things got off to a rocky start in the top of the first, as starting pitcher Greg Murray loaded the bases with no outs. A wild pitch brought home Encinal's first run, and another crossed the plate on a routine fly ball that was dropped.

The Jets (5-3, 1-0) also scored

on a passed ball and a throwing error before the inning was over.

Murray, the Times' Player of the Year last spring, appeared rusty on the mound after a long layoff due to mild shoulder tightness. He left after five innings trailing 7-2, but only four of those runs were earned.

"We dug ourselves a hole, Werren said. "With last year's offense, we could have dug out of that hole, but we don't have the hitters we had last year."

Murray doubled twice and scored a run to pace El Cerrito offensively.

But the Gauchos mustered little against Encinal lefty Wilber Sakakura, an exchange student from Brazil who arrived in Alameda toward the end of January.

Sakakura threw five solid in-

nings to pocket the victory, allowing five hits and striking out five. Neither run he allowed was earned.

He also showed some pop at the plate with a single, an RBI double and two runs scored.

"To have a left-handed pitcher fall in your lap, heck yeah, it's nice," Encinal coach Jim Saunders said. "He's a good kid, too."

Dexter English drove in three runs, scored twice and stole a base for Encinal.

**Alameda 5, Berkeley 4:** The host Hornets (5-3, 1-0 ACCAL) took a 5-0 lead in the third inning, then held on to edge the Yellow Jackets (2-7, 0-1).

Alameda's Jon Wilson was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Mike Durant

See BASEBALL, Page 2



GREG MURRAY, left, of El Cerrito High doesn't get the ball in time to tag Ian Baptista of Encinal in the ACCAL opener for both teams

### ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Teams need  
to be ready  
for changes

By Phil Jensen  
STAFF WRITER

THERE'S A MAJOR change this season in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League badminton. A player can participate in only one match during an ACCAL competition. In the past, a singles player, for example, could also play on a boys doubles team in the same ACCAL competition.

The change follows NCS guidelines. In the NCS championships, a player may be entered in one classification only. League commissioner Bill Jones said that this ACCAL change was initially talked out in the league's postseason coaches meeting last year. On March 22, a meeting was held with Jones and the league's badminton coaches and the change was confirmed by a 4-1 vote among coaches, Jones said. "I guess the coaches wanted to play the same way that the NCS plays," Jones said. "In this particular case, the league is allowed to determine how many events a player can play during the match. It is the same in tennis."

Roy Rogers, Richmond's badminton coach and athletic director, voted for the change. "Overall, I think it's nice because when you go to the

See ACCAL, Page 12

### BSAL NOTEBOOK

Panthers  
try to get  
past illness

By Orlando Molina  
STAFF WRITER

THE ST. MARY'S High School boys volleyball team had it a little rough last week as its entire starting front line was out with food poisoning.

Panthers coach Carmen Vasquez said Max Mazzelli, Jam Spurgeon and David Pezzola were forced to miss the match against St. Elizabeth on March 25. She said she learned of their predicament that afternoon before the match when she received text messages from the players that they were in no condition to play.

Vasquez said it was likely that the sickly trio caught their malady after attending a rehearsal dinner for the school's production of "West Side Story," which the three are participating in.

Vasquez said no one went to the hospital, but the Panthers really dodged a bullet because in all, six of the Panthers' nine players on the roster are in the production and they all attended the dinner.

As for the match, the Panthers beat St. Elizabeth in three.

See BSAL, Page 2

## PREP BASEBALL



ALEX JENSEN has tossed four complete games with 47 strikeouts and is hitting .357 for the Panthers.

## Intensity ... and superstition

■ Jensen seems to have everything working so far for St. Mary's, and it's all due to — pizza and soda?

By Orlando Molina  
STAFF WRITER

St. Mary's High School baseball player Alex Jensen doesn't need a lot of outside help to motivate him toward the game of baseball. For the senior, it all comes from within, and the Panthers are benefiting from his intensity.

"Baseball is everything to him. He eats, breathes and sleeps it," Panthers coach Andy Shimabukuro said. "He's early to practice and is late to leave. He's really elevated his game."

So much to the point where he's the team's ace pitcher, starting the week with a 4-1 record, 47 strikeouts and four complete

games. But as intense as Jensen is on the mound, he's just as quick in sharing the praise.

"The defense is playing well behind me. They're making the plays. When I go out there, I know I can trust my defense," Jensen said.

And his defense can trust him. Jensen, who is looked upon as one of those quiet leaders, also harbors a healthy greed. It's not the kind of greed associated with wealth or the lust for power, but he fits the bill of a money player, whose mouth constantly waters in those clutch, high-pressure situations.

He demonstrated that trait in a 1-0 victory over a potent Miramonte club on March 5. There he quieted the Matadors' boisterous lineup by scattering four hits with eight strikeouts. Looking back, Jensen called it his best game of the year.

"I love the pressure, especially

when I'm pitching. I want to be the guy you turn to. I want the ball in my hands," Jensen said.

His teammates would also like to see him with a pizza and a Sprite in his hands before each start, a superstitious ritual spawned from that win.

Jensen said the day of the Miramonte game he ate a Domino's personal pepperoni pizza and a Sprite before taking the field. Since starting that custom, he went on to win three of his next four outings.

But Jensen doesn't leave his game entirely up to luck. He's worked hard in the summer pitching for the Oakland Oaks and working on his hitting with teammate Dave McGuiness.

He currently bats second after seeing early action all over the batting order, and his ability to consistently crank out hits or lay down a sacrifice bunt has turned some heads. That along

with his .357 average and eight RBIs has Shimabukuro thinking of putting him in the No. 2 slot permanently — a concept Jensen welcomes.

"Baseball is a confidence game, and the No. 2 spot shows the coach has confidence in me," Jensen said.

Shimabukuro said to simply look at Jensen, he won't blow anybody away with his size and physical presence. That's because it's all about his confidence and positive nature. He believes he is a winner, and when his game is on, those positive thoughts, more often than not, translate to success.

"I just try to throw strikes ... that's my goal. So far it's worked for me," Jensen said. "I'm facing better teams now and I have confidence in myself. I believe when I pitch, we can win."

### PREP ROUNDUP

## Gauchos adjust, win in 4 games

STAFF REPORT

The El Cerrito High School boys volleyball team learned from its mistakes on March 25 in a 23-25, 25-9, 25-12, 25-12 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League victory over De Anza.

After struggling with serving and hitting in the first game, the Gauchos (3-4, 1-0 ACCAL) never trailed in the final three games.

"We made 10 critical mistakes that led to the closeness (of the first game)," El Cerrito coach Fred Gonzalez said. "The next three games, we minimized the mistakes."

"We really came together as a team. That was the difference."

Michael Gonzalez, a 6-foot-4 senior outside hitter, paced the Gauchos with 32 kills and 22 digs. Teammate Anthony Cunningham passed for 15 assists and had nine service points, and Michael Hundley had 12 digs and 11 service points for El Cerrito.

Charles Cruz paced the Dons (1-1 ACCAL) with 18 kills and 10 blocks, and Isidro Tamayo also had 10 blocks.

"We peaked too early. After the first set, we couldn't maintain that same level and it got sloppier," De Anza coach Lawrence Lahip said.

The two teams finished 1-2 in the ACCAL last season. El Cerrito was 14-0 and De Anza was 12-2.

Michael Gonzalez said that he has been accepted by the University of the Pacific and will play volleyball there next year.

See PREP, Page 2

### ON DECK

#### Prep baseball

■ **Berkeley vs. El Cerrito, 3:30 p.m.** today at Cerrito Vista Park, El Cerrito — Both teams need an Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League win after losses in their league openers last week.

■ **St. Mary's at John Swett, 3:30 p.m.** today — The Panthers and Indians were two of four teams that were deadlocked atop the Bay Shore Athletic League standings entering league play Wednesday.

#### Prep softball

■ **John Swett at St. Mary's, 3:30 p.m.** today — Both teams could use a win to stay near the top of the BSAL standings. St. Patrick and Salesian were tied for first with 3-0 records entering league action Wednesday.

#### Boys volleyball

■ **St. Mary's at Salesian, 4 p.m.** Tuesday — Neither team had a BSAL loss entering play this week.

#### Stars of the week

■ **Duncan Calladine, St. Mary's boys volleyball** — Calladine was impressive in three Panthers victories. He had nine kills in a 25-13, 25-22, 25-23 win over St. Joseph, 15 kills and seven blocks in an 18-25, 25-27, 25-22, 28-26, 15-12 victory over El Cerrito, and seven aces and six kills in a 25-14, 25-22, 25-8 win over St. Elizabeth.

■ **Jennifer Tutass, El Cerrito softball** — Tutass was 3-for-5 with six RBIs, two runs scored and the game-winning triple in an 11-10 victory over Encinal.

■ **Sydney McIver, Albany softball** — McIver threw a two-hitter with nine strikeouts as the Cougars beat Piedmont 3-1.



## BRIEFS

## Cal girls basketball summer camps

Cal Berkeley will be holding Caren Horstmeier's Girls Basketball Camps for players of all skill levels as follows: Individual day camp for grades 4-8 and 9-12, June 21-24; Evening Shooting camp for grades 7-12, June 21-22; Junior Club day camp for grades K-6, July 26-29; Elite Position camp for grades 9-12, Aug. 7-9 (commuter and resident options). Two teams camps for high school and AAU teams will be offered as follows: Jam Fest on June 6 and Team camp June 25-27 (commuter and resident options). 800-GO-BEARS or www.calbears.com

## Oakland A's summer camp

Oakland A's will be holding a youth baseball camp for ages 8-12

July 26-30 at the Caldecott Tunnel Fields in Oakland. 510-528-4756, http://henducamp.homestead.com/page1.html or madney@pacbell.net

## St. Joseph Notre Dame seeks coach

St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda is looking for a head women's varsity basketball coach for the winter 2004-05 season. Send a letter of application, copy of coaching resume and three references to Dan Curry, Director of Athletics, 1011 Chestnut St., Alameda, 94501. 510-523-1526 or 510-814-7146

## Cal lacrosse camps

UC Berkeley will be holding their 2004 Girls and Boys Lacrosse Camps as follows: Girls camps: Elite Camp, July 23-25; Goalie Academy, July 22-

25; Day Camp, July 26-29; Day Camp in Danville, June 28-July 1 and Boys camps: Boys Day Camp, July 26-29; Elite Camp, July 30-Aug. 1. 800-GO-BEARS, www.CalBears.com or malkoj@berkeley.edu.

## NAYS basketball tourney

North American Youth Sports will be holding their annual youth basketball tournament June 4-6 at Boys and Girls Clubs of Menlo Park and Redwood City. The tournament will feature 10 different brackets for boys and girls in grades 5-12. The entry fee is \$250 and guarantees a minimum of five games. Entry deadline is May 14. For information call 800-787-3265 or tournament director Erin Hazard at 650-497-0302.

## Sports writing scholarship

Entries are still open for the 2004

Art Rosenbaum Sports Writing Scholarship contest, co-sponsored by the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame and Saints and Sinners. Deadline to submit articles is April 15. Three scholarships totaling \$5,000 will be awarded to Bay Area high school juniors or seniors who have written outstanding sports-related articles covering high school sports printed in their school publication between April 15, 2003 to April 15, 2004. Bay Area high schools may submit two entries for each scholarship contest (limit one article per student). 415-352-8827

## Berkeley Cougars football/cheer signups

Berkeley Cougars Youth Football and Cheerleading Assoc. is accepting applications for football players and cheerleaders ages 6-14. For football call John Payne at 510-549-0289

or for cheer call Nichelle Garner at 510-776-8194

## Berkeley Cougars seek cheer coaches

Berkeley Cougars Youth Football and Cheerleading are accepting applications for volunteer cheerleading coaches. 510-776-8194 or ngarner1120@yahoo.com

## Cougar Golf Classic

Albany High School Baseball Boosters are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Cougar Golf Classic to benefit the AHS baseball program May 8 at 12:30 p.m. at Tilden Park Public Golf Course featuring a shotgun start and foursomes will play best ball. The cost is \$135 per golfer and includes green fees, cart, prizes and dinner. 510-525-2608 or Golf4AHSSbaseball@aol.com

## Goodwill Ambassadors seek volleyball players

Goodwill Ambassadors are accepting applications for high school age volleyball players in the United States and Canada to participate in the Goodwill Ambassadors Volleyball tour. Members represent their country, community, and local organizations in London, Paris, Geneva, and Rome. The program is for boys and girls ages 15-20. 8102, www.volleyballtour.org, info@sportsforyouth.com

## Emery High seeks soccer coach

Emery High School is seeking boys varsity soccer coach. For more information call Jim McCray at 510-549-0289

## Chaos takes top spot in indoor soccer

STAFF REPORT

Some young upstarts from the Albany Berkeley Chaos outscored the Oakland Tiger Sharks 3-1 on March 21 at the Bladium in Alameda to clinch first place in the winter under-14 girls Class III indoor soccer league.

In this, their first year together, the girls from Albany and Berkeley, who are on average one year younger than most of their opponents, have placed second in the outdoor District IV league during fall, and second in the local Alameda Contra Costa Youth Soccer League President's

Cup in November.

Chaos' indoor season got off to a shaky start with a 4-2 loss to the powerful Southern Alameda County Rage, but it quickly turned around.

After a blistering six-game win streak that included tough games against the Brentwood Galaxy, Walnut Creek Attack, Oakland Mustangs and Alameda Fury, Chaos coach Kevin Rose-Williams said, "They're a great bunch of kids, got a lot of determination, and I guess they must've just had enough of coming in second place."

Chaos' success seems to be

a result of their "total team football." In addition, Laura Kaer's outstanding goalkeeping has saved Chaos repeatedly throughout the season, and no fewer than nine players have got their names onto the score-sheet.

The season climaxes this Sunday afternoon at the Bladium, when the top four teams — Chaos, Rage, Galaxy and Mustangs — compete in the sudden death playoffs for the under-14 girls champions trophy.

For information and game times, see www.bladium.com.

## FINAL PREP BOYS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	De La Salle	30-3	Spartans beat all comers in Northern California, lose in state final to Fairfax
2.	St. Joseph	29-6	Pilots rally from nine points down to capture Division IV state title
3.	Hayward	31-2	Farmers' great season ends with loss in Division II state final
4.	Newark Memorial	29-5	Cougars win twice in NorCals before losing to Sheldon-Elk Grove
5.	Bishop O'Dowd	26-7	Dragons reach Division III state final before losing to Centennial-Compton
6.	Salesian	24-8	Chieftains have their best season, reach NorCal Division IV semifinals
7.	Berkeley	24-4	Yellow Jackets' season comes to thundering halt in NCS Division I semis
8.	Northgate	25-5	Broncos lose 29-26 squeaker to Bishop O'Dowd in NCS Division III final
9.	Amador Valley	21-9	Dons run to NCS Division II finals, bow out in first round of NorCals
10.	Deer Valley	19-9	Wolverines have solid year, lose to De La Salle in NCS Division I semis

Others receiving votes: McClymonds 22-9, Oakland Tech 19-10. The basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools.

## FINAL PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Piedmont	32-2	Courtney Paris scores 37 points as Highlanders capture Division IV state title
2.	Oakland Tech	25-6	Alexis Gray-Lawson scores 15 points to lead Bulldogs to Division I crown
3.	Carondelet	30-3	Cougars send defending champ Troy-Fullerton packing with 48-41 win in Division II final
4.	St. Mary's	24-9	Panthers advance to NorCal final, lose to Piedmont ... again
5.	Berkeley	22-10	Yellow Jackets win ninth straight NCS crown, make strong push in NorCals
6.	Deer Valley	24-5	Wolverines give Oakland Tech a good fight but lose in NorCal semis
7.	Moreau Catholic	26-6	Mariners capture first section title since 1996 with win over El Cerrito
8.	El Cerrito	22-8	Gauchos make first appearance in NCS final in 15 years, lose to Moreau Catholic
9.	Northgate	23-5	Broncos fall to El Cerrito in NCS Division III semifinals
10.	Pittsburg	21-7	Pirates beat Monte Vista but can't hang with Deer Valley in NCS Division I semis

Other receiving votes: Pinole Valley 20-8. The basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools.

## BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

## Salesian hipsters

The Salesian baseball team has had a strange year, not in the standings but with an odd rash of hip problems to several players.

Chieftains coach Travis Tarchione said outfielder David Husbands broke his hip in the fall while taking a swing during batting practice with friends. Husbands since has recovered and is playing, but he is still experiencing soreness.

Then in a preseason game vs. Pinole Valley, Tarchione said Darin Gok broke his hip while advancing to second on a two-base throwing error of his ground ball. Gok was carried off the field and is now up and around at school. However, his return to the lineup this season is still in doubt.

Finally, last week, Tarchione gets word that pitcher Jordan

Jackson is experiencing pain in his hip. No word on whether it's a fracture, but stay tuned.

## Looking for a complete win

At the start of the week, the Salesian softball team was a perfect 3-0 in the BSAL standings, but to Chieftains coach Dolores Bonds, those wins have been far from perfect thanks to inconsistent hitting. "We can't find back-to-back hits and we're stranding a lot of people on base," Bonds said. "I'm still trying to find a lineup that's consistent."

So far Bonds has found Erin Turner and Priscilla Garcia,

who hit in their respective No. 3 and 4 slots, able to make contact with regularity. She said Turner is hitting over .700 while Garcia is hitting .600.

In addition to her headaches, Bonds finds mental mistakes as another unwellcome habit. But no matter what ails the Chieftains' game, pitcher Allison Donnelly has had to come up big to bail them out.

"Donnelly is the key," Bonds said of her ace, who's 4-2 this season. "(Her teammates) are counting on her more. She tries to be a sweet person when she doesn't get the call, but she has to deal with it."

## ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

North Coast Section (playoffs), you can only play in one match." Rogers said "I think there's an advantage to it because you have a kid playing in the same match all year. It's sort of a disadvantage if you don't have the numbers."

The numbers disadvantage was brought up by Kennedy coach Dolly Felix, who voted against the change.

"I said if you don't have enough kids, you're going to be forfeiting, and that's not right either. My team and Pinole Valley's team don't have enough people to fill all the matches," Felix said. "The bottom line is to get as many kids into the league championship and get to NCS."

There are 17 matches in each ACCAL badminton contest. Four are designated for boys singles, four for girls singles, three for boys doubles, three for girls doubles and three for mixed doubles.

## Game of the week:

Alameda at Encinal baseball, 3:30 p.m. today — Something's got to give between these two rivals, who also may be the best teams in the ACCAL.

## Baseball

FROM PAGE 1

was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored for Berkeley.

**St. Mary's 9, Salesian 1:** Ade Olanrewaju collected two hits and three RBI to lead the Panthers to a Bay Shore Athletic League victory over the visiting Chieftains.

Andy Lawson went 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs for St. Mary's (6-3, 3-1 BSAL). Spencer Winton had two hits and three runs, and Dave McGuinness chipped in with two hits and an RBI.

Salesian fell to 4-3-1, 1-2 in the BSAL.

**SOFTBALL**  
**Salesian 3, St. Mary's 0:** Chieftains pitcher Allison Donnelly fired a four-hitter with 13

strikeouts and no walks as Salesian remained undefeated in Bay Shore Athletic League.

Erin Turner had a two single in the first inning to lead the host Chieftains (4-2 BSAL). St. Mary's, who received a four-hitter from man pitcher Bijou Felder, is 2-5 overall and 1-2 in league.

**El Cerrito 11, Encinal** First-game jitters were abate as the Gauchos and Jets combined for eight errors, but El Cerrito hung on to the ACCAL opener for teams.

Jennifer Tutass delivered a big blow with a two-run triple in the top of the seventh that the Gauchos (2-2, 1-0 ACCAL) an 11-9 lead.

Encinal scored a run in the at-bat before El Cerrito closed the door.

## Prep

FROM PAGE 1

"I'm very excited. I'm ready to go," he said. "I went to visit UOP (in early February) and loved everything about it."

**St. Mary's d. St. Elizabeth:** Despite having three starters out because of food poisoning, the host Panthers still managed to make short work of the Mustangs 25-14, 25-22, 25-8 in Bay Shore Athletic League play.

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NOW PLAYING

are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers: Karen Hershenson and Mary F. Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Rick, David Hilbrand, Steven Rea, Carrie Rickey, Knight Ridder; Publishers: Glenn Lovell and Bruce M. San Jose Mercury News; D. Gorman, Christy Lemire and Nuckols, Associated Press; Dave Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jami Bernard and Matthews, New York Daily News; Joe Flowers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; Evan Hershon, Bob Weiss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Kevin Crust, Manohla Dargatzis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Lurie, Chris Vognar and Philip Martin, Dallas Morning News; Jay Kistner and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Batake, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr and Wesley Morris, New York Globe; Ann Hornaday, New York Times; Hunter and Desson Thomson, Washington Post.

ENT CODY BANKS 2: DESTINATION LONDON\*

In this sequel, Coby Banks (Frankie Muniz) is dispatched to London to locate a mysterious mind-control device before the guys implant it in the teeth of its leaders. This junior James Cagney seems to be aimed at a young audience, which explains the director downplays the dance with a half-dozen bad guys, not of whom leaves a scratch on Coby's company. Still, there is so much nastiness and threatened violence that it doesn't seem appropriate either. — N. Churnin. (PG: violence and some crude humor.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C-

THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS\*

A useful comic drama about attempting to make sense of one's life as a writer-director Denys Arcand's trademark bling wit. Much of the energy comes from Remy Girard, a sardonic professor who now dying of an unnamed disease in a heli-ski overcrowded hospital. Remy rails against his wife; he seethes about humanity most of all, he is at his wit's end about his son Sebastian (Thane Rousseau). This Cannes winner is the sequel to Arcand's "Decline of the American Empire." — K. Turan. (R: language, sexual and drug content.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B+

OPENING TODAY

"GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: NEW YORK" (NR)

This is the first in a "reality movie" series, in which contestants perform risqué pranks, often in the nude.

"HELLBOY" (PG-13)

This supernatural action-adventure is based on the popular Dark Horse Comics series.

"HOME ON THE RANGE" (PG)

Disney's latest is an animated musical comedy about a greedy outlaw and some feisty cows.

"LATTER DAYS" (NR)

A passionate romance develops between a West Hollywood party boy and a Mormon missionary.

"THE PRINCE AND ME" (PG)

Julia Stiles stars in this tale about a Wisconsin pre-med student who falls for a Danish prince.

"CRIMSON GOLD"

Set in Tehran, this tough, bristling story about a working-class man pushed over the edge vividly brings to mind the great Hollywood social dramas of the 1930s. A man, Hussein, botches a jewelry-store heist, then puts a gun to his head and fires. How and why Hussein arrived at this cataclysmic moment is revealed with an extended flashback that constitutes most of the film. — M. Dargis. (Not rated. In Farsi with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B+

"DAWN OF THE DEAD"

In this octane update of the '70s zombie fest, Ana (Sarah Polley) awakens one morning to find the world in chaos from a plague of flesh-munching zombies, so she hooks up with a group of survivors who barricade themselves in a shopping mall. The nimble zombies of the film would be a decent innovation to this horror subgenre if it had not already been done better and scarier in last year's "28 Days Later." — D. Gorman. (R: pervasive strong horror violence and gore, language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. C

"THE DREAMERS"

Berlucchi will soon be 64, but this NC-17-rated film seems like the sex fantasies of a college student with a bang. Set in Paris during the 1968 riots, it focuses less on politics than

"THE RETURN" (NR)

Two brothers reunite with their increasingly brutal father in this Russian film (with subtitles).

"SHAOLIN SOCCER" (PG-13)

Stephen Chow, aka Jim Carrey of the East, stars in this Hong Kong action-comedy.

"A THOUSAND CLOUDS OF PEACE" (NR)

Shot in dreamy black-and-white; this is the story of two lovers who split up and wander the streets of Mexico City. (At the Castro)

"WALKING TALL" (PG-13)

The Rock plays a retired soldier who returns home to find his high school rival is a criminal running the town.

"WILBUR WANTS TO KILL HIMSELF" (R)

Two brothers are transformed by love in this bittersweet romance set in Glasgow.

the sexual envelope-pushing of its three young, gorgeous protagonists. Quasi-incest, even. Dresses up sex as high art, with disposable intellectualism. — M. Pols. (NC-17: explicit sexual content.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. C-

"ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND"

Screenwriter Charlie Kaufman and director Michel Gondry give us a mix of black comedy, shaggy-dog romance, retro sci-fi and metaphysics. Two people (Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet) meet at the beach and experience flashes of déjà vu. They're former lovers who, compliments of the Lacuna Agency, have had their memories erased, and with them, all residual heartache. That they again collide and mysteriously are smitten says something fundamental about the course of true love. — G. Lovell. (R: slight nudity, profanity.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. A-

"50 FIRST DATES"

Adam Sandler plays Henry, a marine-park veterinarian who falls hopelessly in love with Lucy (Drew Barrymore), an art teacher who suffers short-term memory loss. Each day, Lucy's recall is wiped clean, so Henry must win her back over and over. At times so sweet, you'll wish the comedy relief weren't so drawn out and crude; and Henry's profession is but an elaborate excuse for the Manne World

equivalent of sex and flatulence jokes. — G. Lovell. (PG-13: sex, language, crude humor.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B-

"THE FOG OF WAR"

Errol Morris' Oscar-winning documentary about the life lessons learned by Robert S. McNamara, former secretary of Defense for JFK and LBJ, from his involvement in World War II and the Vietnam War. Begs more questions than it answers, and don't expect an apology from McNamara, who is still cagey. Make no mistake: He's in charge, not Morris. But the film is of obvious interest, and in these uncertain times, the lessons McNamara gleaned in hindsight are of piercing relevance. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some scenes of violence.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"GOOD BYE, LENINI!"

This film is funny but not a comedy, serious but never unbearable, emotional in an engaging and bittersweet way. Right before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Alex's socialist mother, Christine, falls into a coma, sleeping through "the biggest eight months in modern German history." When she does wake up, the doctor warns that excitement could be life-threatening. Determined to protect her, Alex devotes most of his waking hours to recreating the gone world of East Germany for his bedridden mother. — K. Turan. (R: brief language, sexuality; in German with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. A

"HIDALGO"

Viggo Mortensen stars in this Disney Western about a man, a Bedouin princess, a femme fatale, a painted horse and a race across 3,000 miles of Arabian desert, circa 1890. He's Frank T. Hopkins, a U.S. Cavalry courier and long-distance horse racer rescued from a life of touring with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show by sheiks with an eye for competition. Omar Sharif makes a plausible sheik, and Mortensen, who underplays his role, looks great on horseback. But the generic evil Arabs, princess and others fail to impress. — R. Moore. (PG-13: adventure violence, some mild innuendo.) 2 hour, 16 minutes. C

"IN AMERICA"

This film by Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot") is shot to look like a memory, as if we're reliving family history. An Irish family relocates in a rundown Manhattan apartment, escaping tragedy back home (the death of another child). Inspired by real-life events in Sheridan's life, with glowing performances (including

Djimon Hounsou as a neighbor), we forgive its excesses, won over by the gentle nostalgia. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexuality, drug references, brief violence and language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B+

"INTERMISSION"

Colin Farrell stars, along with Cillian Murphy and Kelly Macdonald as an armless Dublin couple. He tests her commitment by telling her it's over, but rather than protest, she goes off with a married man, whose wife responds with rampant revenge sex. Sometimes goes too far in connecting its multi-narrative dots, but there's joy, too. — T. Burr. (R: pervasive language, some sexual content, violence.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. B

"JERSEY GIRL"

Ben Affleck is Ollie, a slick music publicist whose wife (Jennifer Lopez), dies during childbirth. Skip ahead seven years: Ollie lives with his dad — and daughter Gertie — in New Jersey, toils in public works and doesn't date much. At least until a video-store clerk (Liv Tyler) hits on him and starts mothering Gertie. The Crisis: Should he go back to the Big City and break up this family unit? So bad it makes you wonder what happened to director Kevin Smith. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: language and sexual content, including frank dialogue.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. D+

"THE LADYKILLERS"

The remake of a '50s classic, courtesy of the Coen brothers. An elderly Southern lady with a room to rent (Irma P. Hall) opens her home to Goldthwait Higginson Dorr, Ph.D. (Tom Hanks), a permanently non-tenured professor of sleazology. He convinces her that his musical group is practicing in her root cellar; really they're tunneling toward the counting room of a riverboat casino. The rousing regional sound-track is so good it just about overwhelms this little heist picture. — B. Newman. (R: violence, nudity, profanity, crude humor.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING"

Director Peter Jackson's magnificent finale to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy reminds us of the magic possible in filmmaking. The journey into Mordor continues, simultaneously with the defense of Gondor against the Orc army. Standout performances include Sean Astin as Samwise Gamgee, Miranda Otto's woman warrior and Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn, whose rallying cry in battle makes you want to throw down your popcorn, pick up a sword and rush the screen to help. An epic, a masterpiece, a treasure. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense battle sequences, frightening images.) 3 hours, 21 minutes. A

"MONSIEUR IBRAHIM"

Omar Sharif returns to the screen in one of the richest roles of his 50-year career. Ibrahim is a Turkish-born Muslim, an unpretentious grocer rich in spirit rather than material wealth. The film initially focuses on Momo (Pierre Boulanger), a Jewish teenager who lives nearby with his rigid and hyper-critical father. A father-and-son bond eventually grows between Ibrahim and Momo as Momo's relationship with his actual father deteriorates. — K. Thomas. (R: some sexual content; in French and Turkish with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B+

"MONSTER"

Charlize Theron pulls off the year's most astounding screen makeover as Aileen Wuornos, the notorious Florida murderer. Director Patty Jenkins uncovers the lost, love-starved child covering under the killer's hard shell. Wuornos, who confessed to murdering six men in the late 1980s and early '90s, died in the electric chair in 2002. By the time the movie begins, Wuornos has plied her trade for years as a hitchhiking low-rent prostitute working the highways of central Florida. The film focuses on her desperate, last-ditch relationship with Selby Wall (Christina Ricci), the lesbian lover who ended up testifying

against her. — S. Holden. (R: graphic rape scene, several murders and abundant profanity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B+

"MYSTIC RIVER"

There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent to the maturity and measured elegance of Clint Eastwood's direction. The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Pols. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. A-

"NED KELLY"

A romantic portrait of the controversial 1870s Australian folk hero. Imprisoned on trumped-up charges, Ned Kelly (Heath Ledger) emerges from jail four years later bitter toward the law. He tries to lay low, but when a police officer falsely accuses him, Ned and his best friend (Orlando Bloom), brother and another friend go on the run. Despite killing a few policemen early on, Ned and his gang become local heroes; doesn't hurt that they rob from rich colonial authorities and redistribute the wealth to the poor. — G. Dowell. (R: language, violence, sexuality.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B

"NEVER DIE ALONE"

DMX stars as an amoral creep so loathsome, it's a relief that the first time we see him he's in a coffin. The last person to see him alive was a white writer with a yen for black music, culture and street life (David Arquette). He listens to the King's concurred, stream-of-consciousness autobiographical tapes, and the viewer is treated to flashbacks leading up to the murder. So silly, so pretentious, that only a narcissistic rapper with a hard-core thug pose would star in such garbage. — R. Moore. (R: strong violence, drug use, sexuality and language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D-

"OSAMA"

This fictional Afghan film takes place sometime before U.S. bombs began falling on Kabul, when the Taliban was ravaging the country. It recounts the twisted story of a 12-year-old girl forced into male disguise in order to work to feed herself, her mother and grandmother, and that of Afghan women whose right to exist was all but denied in the name of God. Raw and wretchedly current, it packs a cruel emotional wallop. — M. Dargis. (PG-13: mature thematic elements.) 1 hour, 22 minutes. B+

"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Mel Gibson directed and co-wrote this literal — and relentlessly brutal — retelling of the last 12 hours of Jesus' life. Although deeply intense and at times moving, the film is so violent it ultimately pushes the viewer away and squanders its opportunity to enlighten. The best scenes are between Mary and her son, when Gibson backs off and lets the humanity shine through. — K. Hershenson. (R: intense graphic violence.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. C

"SCOOBY-DOO 2: MONSTERS UNLEASHED"

Whereas the first movie-doo found Fred, Daphne, Velma, Shaggy and Scooby investigating a brainwashing cult at a theme park, this time they must find the identity of a villain threatening to unleash all the monsters trapped in hometown Coolsville. Neither film has managed to recapture the trippy, laid-back vibe of the original cartoon. — C. Lemire. (PG: some scary action, rude humor, language.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. D

"SECRET WINDOW"

Johnny Depp stars in this adaptation of a Stephen King novella as Mort Rainey, an author of thrillers with a terrible case of writer's block. Complicating matters is the sudden appearance at his isolated cabin of a stalker named John Shooter (John Turturro), who accuses Rainey of stealing one of his stories and changing its ending. All Shooter

See REVIEWS, Page C4

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Mediapro County

1875 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-1836  
Hidalgo (PG-13) 6:45, 9:20  
Home On the Range (PG) 7:35, 9:15.

Parkway Theatre

1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400  
50 First Dates (PG-13) 7  
in America (PG-13) 6:30  
Spartan (R) 9:15  
The Triplets of Belleville (PG-13) 9:45.

Piedmont Theatre

4198 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-654-2756  
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R) 1:15, 4:30, 7:30  
Good Bye, Lenin! (R) 1, 4, 6:45, 9:20  
Mystic River (R) 1:30, 4:45, 8.

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2992  
City of God (R) 4:25, 9:35  
The Fog of War (PG-13) 1:30, 4, 6:45, 9:10  
Jersey Girl (PG-13) 1:45, 4:15, 6:55, 9:15  
The Ladykillers (R) 12:50, 2:10, 3:15, 4:35, 5:45, 7, 8:15, 9:30  
Osama (PG-13) 12:45, 2:45, 4:50, 6:50, 9  
The Prince & Me (PG) 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:50  
The Return (Not Rated) 2:30, 5, 7:25, 9:50  
Touching the Void (Not Rated) 2, 7:10  
The Triplets of Belleville (PG-13) 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20  
Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45.

United Artists Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-0193  
Dawn of the Dead 12:45, 3:15, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35  
Hellboy 11:45, 1, 2:30, 3:45, 5:15, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:45  
Never Die Alone (R) 12, 2:15, 5, 7:30, 10:15  
Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 12:30, 3, 5:30, 7:45, 10  
Stargate & Hutch (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20  
Walking Tall (PG-13) 1:15, 3:30, 7:15, 9:50.

United Artists Emery Bay

6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0492  
Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50  
Dawn of the Dead 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40  
Hellboy (PG-13) 12, 1:30, 2:40, 4:15, 5:20, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:40, 12  
Home On the Range (PG) 12, 2, 4, 5:55, 8, 10  
Jersey Girl 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20  
Passion of the Christ (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10, 12  
The Prince & Me 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10  
Scooby-Doo 2: (PG) 12:20, 1:20, 2:30, 3:30, 4:50, 5:40, 7, 7:50, 9:30, 10:20.

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060  
Home On the Range (PG) 12, 1:45, 4, 6, 7:35, 9:15  
Jersey Girl (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45  
The Ladykillers (R) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Rheem Theatre

3010 Park St., Moraga 925-988-3411  
Hellboy (PG-13) 11:50, 2:25, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50  
Hidalgo (PG-13) 2:40, 5:20  
Prince & Me (PG) 12:10, 2:35, 5:30, 7:45, 10  
Scooby-Doo 2 (PG) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:10, 9:40  
Secret Window (PG-13) 12:10, 9:10.

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-751-3213  
Spartan (R) 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45.

Clay Theatre

2261 Filmore St., San Francisco 415-346-1124  
Monsieur Ibrahim (R) 2:10, 4:30, 7, 9:20.

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997  
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:20.

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop

3200 Klose Way Richmond 510-758-2345  
Dawn of the Dead (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10  
Hellboy (PG-13) 11:30, 12:25, 1:20, 2:15, 3:10, 4:05, 5, 5:55, 6:50, 7:45, 8:40, 9:35, 10:30  
Hidalgo (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15  
Home On the Range (PG) 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20  
Jersey Girl (PG-13) 11:30, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45  
The Ladykillers (R) 12:35, 3, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15  
Never Die Alone (R) 11:40, 1:50, 4, 6:15, 8:20, 10:30  
The Passion of the Christ (R) 12:40, 3:55, 7, 9:55  
The Prince & Me (PG) 11:40, 2:50, 5, 7:40, 10:20  
Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 11:35, 12:45, 2, 3:15, 4:25, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10  
Secret Window (PG-13) 7, 9:40  
Stargate & Hutch (PG-13) 2:25, 7:30  
Taking Lives (R) 11:45, 4:50, 10:05  
Walking Tall (PG-13) 11:25, 12:30, 1:35, 2:45, 3:50, 4:55, 6, 7:10, 8:15, 9:25, 10:25, 10:10.

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-922-4262  
Dawn of the Dead (R) 1:30, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45  
Hellboy (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:25, 8:20, 11:15  
Hidalgo (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15  
Home On the Range (PG) 12:15, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30  
Jersey Girl (PG-13) 2:10, 5:10, 7:55, 10:25  
The Ladykillers (R) 1, 4:20, 7:10, 10  
Never Die Alone (R) 2, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15  
The Prince & Me (PG) 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50  
Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 12:50, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55  
Secret Window (PG-13) 1:50, 4:55, 7:25, 10:05  
Stargate & Hutch (PG-13) 2:15, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20  
Taking Lives (R) 1:45, 5, 8, 10:40  
Walking Tall (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 4:40, 7, 9:20

AMC Kabuki 8

1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-931-9800  
Dawn of the Dead (R) 12:35, 5:25, 10:15  
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R) 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 8, 10:40  
Home On the Range (PG) 1:10, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30  
Jersey Girl (PG-13) 12:30, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40  
The Passion of the Christ (R) 12, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45  
The Prince & Me (PG) 12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20  
Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50  
Stargate & Hutch (PG-13) 3, 7:50  
Walking Tall (PG-13) 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30.

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-751-3213  
Spartan (R) 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45.

Clay Theatre

2261 Filmore St., San Francisco 415-346-1124  
Monsieur Ibrahim (R) 2:10, 4:30, 7, 9:20.

Embarcadero Center

Cinemas

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0835  
Good Bye, Lenin! (R) 1, 4:10, 7, 9:40  
Intermission (R) 1:10, 4, 7:10, 9:35  
Latter Days (Not Rated) 12:10, 2:35, 5, 7:30, 10:10  
The Triplets of Belleville (PG-13) 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:40, 9:50  
Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself (R) 12, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 10.

Lumiere Theatre

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-885-3201  
Games People Play: New York (Not Rated) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10  
Shaolin Soccer (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45  
Touching the Void (Not Rated) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-771-0183  
The Dreamers (NC-17) 1:45, 4:30, 7, 9:30  
The Fog of War (PG-13) 2, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40  
Monster (R) 1:30, 4, 6:45, 9:20  
The Return (Not Rated) 2:15, 5, 7:30, 9:50.

Loews Theatres Metreon\*

101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6201  
Dawn of the Dead (R) 11:45, 2:35, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45  
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R) 11:40, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 7, 8:10, 10, 11  
Hellboy (PG-13) 10:30, 1, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 8, 9, 10:35, 11:10, 12:30  
Hidalgo (PG-13) 11:30, 2:50, 6:1



# Events

## DANCE

**ASHKENAZ** — Tom Rigney and Flambeau, April 3, 9 p.m.; dance lesson, 8 p.m. \$13  
 "UC Folkdancers' Reunion," April 4, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. A potluck with folk music and memories. \$7.

Brass Menagerie, April 6, 8:30 p.m.  
 Balkan dance lesson at 7:30 p.m. \$9  
 The Creole Belles, Andrew Carniere, April 7, 8:30 p.m. Cajun dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$9.

"Flamenco Open Stage with Carolina Zertuche," April 11, 7:30 p.m. \$9  
 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5054 or [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com)

**NEW STYLE MOTHERLODE** — "Blaze," April 10, 6:30 p.m. A hip-hop dance showcase and dance battle, featuring performances by the New Style Motherlode Dance Company and Diamond Dance Company.

\$10 to \$20. Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 1933 Broadway, Oakland. 510-597-1056 or [www.newstylemotherlode.com](http://www.newstylemotherlode.com)

**SHATTUCK DOWN LOW** — Live Salsa, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. A live salsa band plays, and there are beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate ones at 8:45 p.m.

\$10 general; \$5 students. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or [www.shattuckdownlow.com](http://www.shattuckdownlow.com)

**THE STARRY DANCE PUB** — "Celi and Dance," Mondays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

Free. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082 or [www.starryploughpub.com](http://www.starryploughpub.com)

## THEATRE

**BERKELEY REPERTORY'S RODA THEATRE** — "Ghosts" by Henrik Ibsen, closing April 11. At her husband's funeral, a mother must decide whether to tell her son her husband's secret or continue to protect the family's reputation.

\$10 to \$55. Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; April 10, 8 p.m.; April 3 and April 8, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, (888) 48RTTix or [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org)

**EPIC ARTS** — Jane Austen in Berkeley: Episode One by Andrea Mock, April 5 through April 19. A one-woman play about Berkeley mom and her imaginary friend, Jane Austen.

\$7. Monday, 8 p.m. 1923 Ashby Ave.,

Berkeley. 510-841-9441 or [www.andreamock.org](http://www.andreamock.org)

**KIMBALLS EAST** — "Martha's Scandalous Speakeasy Show and Sexy Cirque Extravaganza," closing April 11. A sexy and fun show featuring asexuals, show girls, circus acts, samba girls, singing and music. Doors open for dinner and cocktails at 6 p.m.; entertainment begins at 7 p.m.; the Extravaganza begins at 8:30 p.m.

\$29 to \$79. Thursday through Sunday, 6 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville (800) 595-4TIX or [www.scandals4short.com](http://www.scandals4short.com)

**LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER'S ACT/ACTOS THEATRE SERIES** — "Free, and Ova Saopeng, LSL: Lao as a Second Language," April 3, 8 p.m. A complex journey behind the silence of Lao America by Kristina Sheryl Wong.

\$10 general; \$5 students. La Penna Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or [www.lapenna.org](http://www.lapenna.org)

**LANDMARK CALIFORNIA THEATRE** — "Sing-Along Sound of Music," April 9 through April 15. A sing-along version of the popular movie musical. The audience is invited to dress in costume and sing along to songs such as "My Favorite Things" and "Do-Re-Mi."

\$15 general; \$10 seniors, children ages 12 and younger. Daily, 7 p.m.; April 10 and April 11, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. 2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley. (866) 468-3399 or [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)

**THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE** — "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams, April 2 through May 8. The story of a fragile family in the South: a faded Southern Belle mother, a disillusioned son and a crippled daughter.

\$13. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; April 11, April 25 and May 2, 2:30 p.m. 105 Park Place, Richmond. 510-232-4031 or [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org)

**OAKLAND BOX THEATRE** — "The Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third Thursdays, 8 p.m. to midnight. An open-mic poetry and music event followed by a performance by touring poets of national acclaim. The night ends with a poetry slam in which poets compete to go to the finals for a place on the 2004 Oakland Slam Team. \$10.

1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or [www.oaklandbox.com/](http://www.oaklandbox.com/)

**SHOTGUN PLAYERS** — "The Miser" by Moliere, April 5 through May 2. The timeless farce filled with lovers, vows, mistaken identity and a man so

greedy not even the audience will feel safe from his clutches.

Pay what you can. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8210 or [www.shotgunplayers.org](http://www.shotgunplayers.org)

**THEATREFIRST** — "Moo! Street Moves" by Paul Slabolepszy, April 9 through May 2. Two members of the Johannesburg underclass, from different sides of the racial divide in South Africa in 1993, find that survival makes for strange bedfellows.

\$18 to \$22 general, \$15 to \$19 seniors, students, \$9 to \$11 under age 25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-436-5085 or [www.theatrefirst.com](http://www.theatrefirst.com)

## TOURS

**BERKELEY CITY CLUB TOURS** — Guided tours through Berkeley's City Club, a landmark building designed by architect Julia Morgan, designer of Hearst Castle.

\$2. The fourth Sunday of every month between noon and 4 p.m. 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800

**BLACK PANTHER LEGACY TOUR** — A bus tour of 18 sites significant in the history of the Black Panther Party, conducted by the Huey P. Newton Foundation.

\$20 to \$25 general; \$15 students. Last Saturday of the month, noon to 2:30 p.m. West Oakland Branch Library, 1801 Adeline Ave., Oakland. 510-966-0660 or [www.blackpanthertours.com/](http://www.blackpanthertours.com/)

**CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — HISTORY WALKABOUTS — Ongoing. A series of walking tours that explore the history, lore and architecture of California with veteran tour guide Gary Holloway. Five walks are given on specific weekends. The tours are Friday at 10 a.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There is a different meeting place for each weekend and walks take place rain or shine so dress for the weather. Reservations and prepayment required. Meeting place will be given with confirmation of tour reservation.

**BERKELEY** — April 2 through April 4 "Ocean View." Visit the oldest historic settlement in the Bay Area, dating back thousands of years, on the site of the largest Ohlone shell mound ever created. The Native American period was followed by the Spanish rancho era, and then American migration in the early 1850s. At this time a settlement was founded near the mouth of Strawberry Creek in what was

called Ocean View, now West Berkeley. On this walk, explore the old streets and byways of Ocean View, including remnants of the old shell mound and some of the original structures from the 1850s, as well as some of the modern restaurants, shops and galleries in the area.

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** — April 23 through April 25. "Lafayette." In the rolling hills of Contra Costa County between Orinda and Walnut Creek lies Lafayette, originally the home of the Akian Indians until it became a Spanish land grant and was later sold to a settler. See the new town plaza, a statue of Marquis de Lafayette, some historic structures, many businesses and some early 1940s and 1950s tract homes.

\$15 to \$20 includes admission to the California Historical Society Museum, 678 Mission St., San Francisco. (415) 357-1848 or [www.californiahistorical-society.org](http://www.californiahistorical-society.org)

**CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE** — The Camron-Stanford House, a stately, 1876 Italianate-style home that was at one time the Oakland Public Museum, has been restored and furnished with appropriate period furnishings by the Camron-Stanford House Preservation Association. It is the last Victorian house on Lake Merritt's shore. Tours available on Wednesday and Sunday. Call ahead to confirm tours and hours.

\$4 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 youths ages 12 to 18; free children under age 12. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 14th Street and Lakeside Drive, Oakland. 510-444-1876

**CASA PERALTA** — Once the home of descendants of the 19th-century Spanish soldier and Alameda County landowner Don Luis Maria Peralta, the 1821 adobe was remodeled 1926 as a grand Spanish villa, using some of the original bricks. The casa features a beautiful Moorish exterior design and hand-painted tiles imported from Spain, some of which tell the story of Don Quixote. The interior is furnished in 1920s decor. Call ahead to confirm hours.

Free but donations accepted. Friday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 384 W. Estuillo Ave., San Leandro. 510-577-3474 or 510-577-3491

**DUNSMUR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE** — April 4 through September. Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room



## Senegal star

**SINGER-GUITARIST** Baaba Maal is revered in his West African homeland of Senegal for his spirited, melodic blending of native Fulani musical sounds with such American roots-music staples as funk, R&B and jazz. The Grammy-nominated artist and his seven-piece band Daande Lenol — known to sport traditional garb and break into dance frequently — headline a concert in Berkeley tonight. Baaba Maal and Daande Lenol perform 8 tonight at Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., UC Berkeley. Tickets are \$22-\$38. Contact 510-642-9988 or [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion. Open to the public the first Sunday of every month.

Docent-led Tours, April 7 through 25 Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon general; \$4 seniors, free children 13 and under.

See EVENTS, Page C5

## Reviews

### FROM PAGE C3

wants, he says, is to fix the ending and have the story republished under his name. However, trouble is all that Rainey gets from Shooter's sporadic, unexpected and threatening appearances. — J. Baltake. (PG-13: violence/terror, sexual content, language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. **B**

**"SPARTAN":** David Mamet doesn't direct movies; he holds graduate tutorials on movie-making. In this one, he tries to deconstruct such genre staples as "Marathon Man" and "To Live and Die in L.A." Sometimes it works; sometimes it seems like Mickey Mouse machismo. Val Kilmer stars as a rogue agent trying to find the president's daughter, who may have been kidnapped by white slavers. The twist: The prez's advisers don't want her back. — G. Lovell. (R: violence, profanity.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. **C+**

**"STARSKY & HUTCH":** Not so much a movie version of the 1970s buddy-cop TV show as it is "Zoolander" with guns. While investigating a murder, Starsky (Ben Stiller) and Hutch (Owen Wilson) begin to suspect a wealthy drug kingpin (Vince Vaughn). Really, though, the case is just an excuse for the pair to play dress-up as they go undercover. With Snoop Dogg as informant Huggy Bear. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: drug content, sexual situations, partial nudity, language and some violence.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. **C**

**"THE STATION AGENT":** A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch. Sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their anti-social tendencies. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **B+**

**"TAKING LIVES":** Angelina Jolie stars as Illeana Scott, an FBI profiler invited to Montreal to help the police with a messy string of murders. If the film begins with a modicum of wit and creepy-crawly scares, it winds up somewhere else altogether: in the cliché-strewn land of preposterous red herrings, brake-screaming, stunt-doubles-go-flying car chases, and far-fetched, gun-grappling denouements. At some point, able-bodied actors and directors are going to find better things to do than rehash stylishly grim serial-killer thrillers. Ethan Hawke and Kiefer Sutherland co-star. — S. Rea. (R: violence, sexuality, language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. **C**

**"TOUCHING THE VOID":** Two climbers go up a mountain in Peru. One breaks his leg and must be lowered by his partner. When the rope

leaves the injured man dangling helplessly and hopelessly over a crevasse, his partner makes the decision to cut the rope to save his own life. This compelling documentary, featuring interviews with the survivors and re-creations of the climb using actors, is agonizingly suspenseful, even though we know the remarkable outcome from the get-go. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 46 minutes. **B+**

**"THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE":** The film's two lines of intelligible dialogue have been dubbed into English. Its sensibility, however, remains irreducibly French. The overture is a black-and-white spectacle: naughty, exuberant and a little creepy. It introduces the Triplets of the title, a trio of gangly, cloche-wearing scat singers. The story is too bizarre and wonderful to summarize, but it winds up in

Belleville, a Manhattan-like dream city. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: some violent and frightening scenes.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. **A**

**"TWISTED":** Newly promoted homicide investigator Jessica Shepard (Ashley Judd) is one twisted sister. Her father had been a near-legendary cop before going on a killing spree that ended with her mother's death and his suicide. Her first case involves a serial killer whose victims all happen to be her former bed partners, and as evidence points her way, she begins to wonder if she has inherited Dad's homicidal urges.

Samuel L. Jackson and Andy Garcia have low-impact roles in this convoluted thriller wannabe. — P. Wuntch. (R: violence, sex, language, nudity.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. **C-**

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## Events

## FROM PAGE C4

**TATE GROUNDS** — The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public. Free Self-Guided Grounds Tour booklets are available at Dinkelspiel House. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**SPECIAL EVENT** — "An Old-Fashioned Easter Celebration," April 11, noon to 4 p.m. An afternoon of egg hunts, egg decorating, games, visits from the Easter Bunny and tours of the Mansion. \$5 general; \$4 seniors; \$4 youth ages 11 to 16; \$1 children ages 4 to 10, free children under 4.

**Ansuir House and Gardens Historic Estate**, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. 510-615-5555 or www.dunsmuir.org

**GOLDEN GATE LIVE STEAMERS** — Small locomotives, meticulously scaled to size, run along a half-mile of track in Tilden Regional Park. The small trains are owned and maintained by a non-profit group of railroad buffs that offer rides.

**Trains** run Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rides: Sunday, noon to 3 p.m., weather permitting. Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Lomas Cantadas Drive at the south end of Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. 510-486-0623.

**LAKE MERRITT BOAT RIDES** — "Gondola Servizio." Weather permitting, take a ride around Lake Merritt in a Venetian-style gondola rowed by a gondolier. The boats of Gondola Servizio were built by hand in Venice and can be reserved either open or with an enclosed cabin. Each gondola seats up to six people and reservations are required.

**Marco Polo**: Bring a picnic lunch and/or beverage to enjoy on this 25-minute cruise. \$45 per couple, \$10 for each additional person.

**San Francisco**: A 55-minute cruise. Bring a picnic and/or champagne or another beverage to enjoy. Glasses are supplied along with blankets. \$75 per couple, \$10 for each additional person.

**Like**: This romantic excursion in an 18th-century, covered-cabin gondola glides a ride in the fashion of the Venetian Nobility. The cabin is decorated with rich tapestries, appliques and etched glass windows. Must be reserved two days in advance. Be sure to bring champagne for this romantic ride. \$100 per hour.

**Shmoozy Sposi**: This is a package that includes two rowers in 17th-century attire, decorations and free passage or a photographer for that special occasion. \$225 per hour. 510-663-6603 or www.gondolaservizio.com

**at Lake Merritt** on one of two wheelchair-accessible pontoon boats. Learn about the history of the lake and a bit about Oakland. The tour takes about 30 minutes and runs all year, weather permitting. Reservations required. 510-510-444-3807

**at Merritt Sillboat House**, 568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland

**LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY** — Scientists and engineers guide visitors through the research areas of the laboratory.

**Demonstrating emerging technology** and discussing the research's current and potential applications. A Berkeley tour usually lasts two to three hours and includes visits to several research areas. Popular tour sites include the Advanced Light Source, The National Center for Electron Microscopy, the 88-Inch Cyclotron, The Advanced Lighting Laboratory, and The Human Genome Laboratory.

Reservations required at least two weeks in advance of tour. 100 University of California, Berkeley.

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## Dylan-esque ... sort of

**YES, JOHN WESLEY HARDING** took his stage moniker from a Bob Dylan album, but the former Bay Area folkie's inspirations are much more widespread, from John Prine to Billy Bragg and even Elvis (as in Costello). Harding's tour in support of his latest album, "Adam's Apple," comes to Berkeley next week. John Wesley Harding performs 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets are \$16.50. Contact 510-548-1761, www.thefreight.org.

510-486-4387

## MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY WALKING TOURS

Take a docent-led walking tour of this cemetery, designed by renowned architect Fredrick Law Olmsted, where many historical

figures, both local and national, are buried.

Free. Second Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. 5000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-658-2588 or www.oaklandhistory.com/

**"THE NIMITZ WALK"** — A level, paved walk originally constructed when the army was considering putting a missile site in the hills above Berkeley. Near Inspiration Point; from San Pablo Dam Road turn left onto Wildcat Canyon Road in Orinda. The entrance to the walk, and a parking lot, is at the top of the ridge.

Free. Daily, sunrise to sunset. Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. 510-525-2233

**OAKLAND HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR** — The tour begins promptly at 10 a.m. and lasts approximately an hour and a half. Reservations are recommended but not required.

"First Tuesday Tour," April 6. Visit City Hall and learn about its restoration. The tour also visits Frank H. Ogawa Plaza and city administration buildings. Meet at the front steps of City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza. Free. Oakland. 510-238-3234 or www.oaklandnet.com

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE TOUR** — First and third Saturdays of each month, 10 a.m.

The historic Paramount Theatre is a restored art deco masterpiece from the movie palace era. The two-hour tour covers areas not usually accessible to the public. Cameras are allowed. Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult. Meet at the 21st Street entrance. \$1 per person. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400, 510-893-2300 or www.paramounttheatre.com

**THE PARDEE HOME MUSEUM** — The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. The gardens are being renovated. Guided tours of the house and grounds are available. Reservations recommended.

**BAY AREA AUTHORS SERIES** — Through May 31, a series of readings by local authors who have been specially invited to discuss their books and offer them for sale and signing. Coffee is available for a donation.

Tours of the museum will be available following the reading for \$5 per person. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free.

April 12: Lawrence M. Levy, The San Francisco author, who works as a carpenter, will discuss his 2002 book "Indian Summer of Love."

\$5 general; free children ages 12 and under. Tours: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. 672 11th St., Oakland. 510-444-2187 or www.pardeehome.org

**THE USS POTOMAC** — The 165-foot presidential yacht USS Potomac was called the "Floating White House" when it was refurbished at the beginning of World War II for use by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The yacht has been restored to its World War II splendor and visitors may see it docked at the foot of Clay Street. The USS Potomac offers both dockside tours of the ship and two-hour nar-

rated history cruises on Saturdays in August and September.

**DOCKSIDE TOURS** — The tour takes about an hour and discusses how F.D.R. used the ship. Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$5 general; \$3 seniors; free youths age 18 and under.

**HISTORY CRUISES** — April through October. These are narrated two-hour cruises around San Francisco Bay. Emphasis is put on the impact of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration had on the Bay Area and surrounding landmarks. There is a 15-minute video shown at the Visitor Center prior to the cruise offering a glimpse of Roosevelt's use of the USS Potomac and how the ship was restored. April 1, April 10, April 15 and April 24, 11 a.m. \$35 general; \$30 seniors; \$15 youths ages 6 to 18; free children ages 6 and under.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — "South Bay Opening Day," April 3, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Take a cruise to Redwood City for Opening Day on the South Bay. This is an all-day event with festivities beginning at Redwood City at 9:30 a.m. The Potomac will leave to return to Oakland at 4:30 p.m. \$60 per person round trip, \$30 per person one-way. Reservations requested. 510-672-1215

"Opening Day on the Bay," April 25, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Opening Day" marks the official start of San Francisco Bay's 2004 boating season. Some 300 boats will participate in this year's festivities, which include a

blessing of the boats, a sail past San Francisco, and hi-jinks like water fights between boats. A gourmet box lunch is included in the price. Reservations requested. \$75 per person. 510-627-1215

**USS Potomac**: F.D.R. Pier, foot of Clay Street, northwest end of Jack London Square, Oakland. Potomac Visitor Center. 540 Water St., Oakland. 510-627-1502 or www.usspotomac.org

**USS HORNET MUSEUM** — Ongoing Come aboard the USS Hornet, a World War II aircraft carrier that has been converted into a floating museum. The Hornet, launched in 1943, is 899 feet long and 27 stories high. During World War II she was never hit by an enemy strike or plane and holds the Navy record for number of enemy planes shot down in a week. In 1969 the Hornet recovered the Apollo 11 space capsule containing the first men to walk on the moon, and later recovered Apollo 12. In 1991 the Hornet was designated a National Historic Landmark and is now docked at the same pier she sailed from in 1944. Today, visitors can tour the massive ship, view World War II-era warplanes and experience a simulated aircraft launch from the carrier's deck. More exhibits will be added over the next few years.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — "Flashlight Tour," April 17, 8:30 a.m. Explore areas of the ship that have not been opened to

See EVENTS, Page C6

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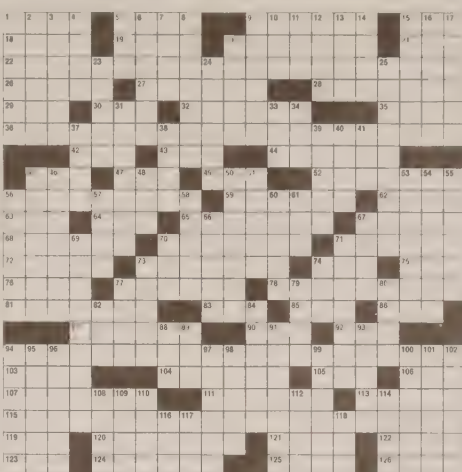
**THE BERKELEY VOICE**  
HILLS NEWSPAPERS



## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? By David J. Kahn / Edited by Will Shortz

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- 99 1953 Best Actor
- 100 Syrian city of 2 million
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## Events

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the public. Ticket price includes all-day admission to the museum, Living Ship activities and surprises. Reservations required. \$35 per person. 510-521-8448, ext. 234.

"Living Ship Day," April 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. See the aircraft carrier in action. There will be simulated flight operations as aircraft are lifted to the flight deck and placed in launch position. Participate in mission briefings, meet former crewmembers and sit in the cockpit of a real fighter jet. Free with regular museum admission.

"Doolittle Raid Anniversary," April 18. In 1942, a squadron of B-25's were loaded onboard the USS Hornet CV-8 here in Alameda. The mission, led by Jimmy Doolittle, was to boost American morale and become the turning point of World War II.

"Swing in the Spring!" April 24, 7 p.m. to midnight. Dance the night away to the Big Band sounds of The Harry James Orchestra. England Catering will be providing their popular "Hot Sandwich Plate" for \$10 per plate and The San Francisco Jitterbugs will demonstrate dance steps from 7:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. as well as performing later in the evening. \$40 to \$80. 510-521-8448, ext. 228.

"Flight Deck Fun," ongoing. A former Landing Signal Officer will show children how to bring in a fighter plane for a landing on the deck then let them try the signals themselves. Times vary. Free with admission.

"Protestant Divine Services," Sundays, 11 a.m. Hornet Chaplain John Berger conducts church services aboard the Hornet in the Wardroom Lounge. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served immediately following the service.

"Limited Access Day," Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Due to ship maintenance, tours of the navigation bridge and the engine room are not available. \$5.

\$12 general; \$10 seniors, students and military, active or inactive; \$5 youths ages 5 to 18; free children under age 5 with a paying adult. Monday and Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. limited access as ship maintenance is being performed. Pier 3 (enter at Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-521-8448 or www.uss-hornet.org

**WESTERN AEROSPACE MUSEUM** — The museum features a display of aircraft ranging from World War II to present-day models, as well as other historical aviation memorabilia. Among the museum displays are a McDonnell Douglas A-4 Skyhawk from the Vietnam War; a McDonnell Douglas-British Aerospace Harrier; a replica of the Wright Brothers 1911 Vin Fiz, the first plane to be flown across the United States; and a Lockheed Vega, a single-engine plane flown by Amelia Earhart, who set speed records in it. The plane is the only Vega in existence with an aluminum fuselage. Also included is a vertical take-off Hamer jet formerly belonging to NASA, a British-built flying boat and a MIG-15. Docent-led tours available by special request.

\$7 general; \$6 seniors; \$5 active military; \$3 children ages 6 to 12; free children under age 6; \$2 per person additional for Short Sled flying boat tour. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. North Field, Oakland International Airport, 8260 Boeing St., Building 621, Oakland. 510-638-7100 or www.westernaerospacemuseum.org/

## MUSEUMS

**AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY** — "AAMLO Presents: New Dimensions in Art," through May 1. An exhibit of works by artists Milton Bowers and Yvonne Munde including multimedia paintings and oil paintings.

"Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cul-

tures in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings and maps, a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects.

"Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 650 14th St., Oakland 510-637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

**ALAMEDA MUSEUM** — The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City.

Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda 510-521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org/

**EBONY MUSEUM OF ART** — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission. \$2 guided tour. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. 510-763-0141.

**JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM** — The museum's permanent collection in-

cludes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historic artists.

"Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum," through April 25. An exhibit that includes 130 objects drawn from the museum's archives, library and collections. Works featured include a recovered Torah Ark from the Queen Mary ocean liner, documents from the Spanish Inquisition, a drawing by Albert Einstein and works by Marc Chagall.

Free. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley 510-549-6950 or www.magnes.org/

**JUNIOR CENTER OF ART AND SCIENCE** — A center dedicated to encouraging children's active wonder and creative response through artistic and scientific exploration of their natural urban environment. The center's classes, workshops, exhibits and events integrate art and science.

EXHIBITS — Three educational exhibits are mounted in the "Children's

Gallery" each year. A docent-led tour, demonstrations, hands-on activities and art projects are available to school groups throughout the year.

"African American Inventors," through April 6. An exhibit that highlights a selection of contributions that African-American inventors and scientists have made to American society. Historical and contemporary inventors will be represented.

**SPECIAL EVENT** — "Family Fun for the 50th," April 3, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. An event celebrating the center's 50th anniversary and renovation, featuring hands-on art and science activities and entertainment. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments and self-guided tours of the new outdoor art studios, science and nature labs. Free.

Free, programs and special exhibits have a fee. Through May. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 558 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777 or www.juniorcenter.org/

**MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM** — "Mills College Senior Exhibition," through April 15.

Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM

**MUSEE DES HOMMAGES** — "Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings handpainted by master California artist Colwell. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European paintings from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does not have regular hours so call ahead when planning a visit.

Free. Call ahead for appointment. 2028 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-841-4210 or www.atelegr.com

**MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE** — A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient times to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Cafe, and science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes.

\$6 general; \$4 children ages 6 to 18 Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 630 20th St.,

Oakland. 510-893-6426 or www.blackengineers.org

**THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA** — "Kids Collect: Honoring the Past," April 8 through June 6. An exhibit of works, by students in kindergarten through ninth grade, on the theme of elders — older people who have influenced them and enriched their lives. In the Betty and Knud Danil Student Art Gallery.

Opening Reception, April 25, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

In Our Own Voice: The Making of a Korean Community," through May. An installation that includes photographs, historical artifacts, a presentation and an illustrated timeline.

"Henry J. Kaiser. Think Big," through Aug. 29. An exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia highlighting the life of the entrepreneur Henry J. Kaiser. This will be a re-creation of a maternity with Kaiser innovations and other Kaiser inventions.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the Museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

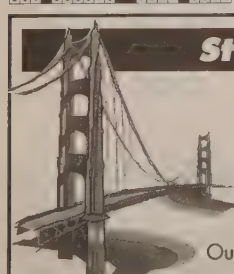
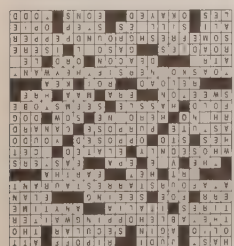
Art à la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours, including one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — "2004 Earth Dance: A Short-Attention-Span Environmental Film Festival," April 2, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Five to 15-minute addressing urban, rural and wilderness environments. There will be a presentation in a live ceremony with tickets. Free with museum admission. 510-238-2022.

The 35th Annual California Wildflower Show," April 3 and April 4. Featuring profusion of native flowers from the coast and the coastal mountains. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Free with admission. \$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free children ages 5 and under. In addition to the second Sunday of the month. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 p.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 238-2200 or www.museumca.org

**THE PARDEE HOME MUSEUM** — historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1888, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in native and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water-

See EVENTS, Page C7

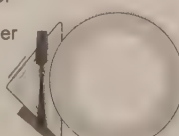


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SAFEWAY....SOLANO & NEILSON  
SEVEN-ELEVEN....1540 SOLANO AVE  
CAFE DEL SOL....SOLANA & ENSENADA  
KENSINGTON PHARMACY....ARLINGTON & AMHERST  
WALKER'S PIE SHOP....1491 SOLANO  
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**THE JOURNAL**  
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## Events

M PAGE C6

and barn. Reservations recommended. \$5 general; free children under 12. House Tours: Wednesday, 12 p.m.; Saturday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m.; 672 11th St., Oakland 510-444-2187 or [www.pardes.org](http://www.pardes.org)

**WORLD MUSEUM OF HISTORY** — Permanent exhibits highlight rich cultural, industrial and architectural legacy.

**House of Faith and Worship**, ongoing exhibit documenting the history of many churches that reflect richly diverse cultures and lifestyles. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 400 Nevins Ave., Richmond 510-235-7387.

**LEANDRO HISTORY MUSEUM OF ART GALLERY** — The new museum showcases local and regional art and serves as a centerpiece for community cultural activity. There are exhibits on Ohlone settlements, early settlers, and contributions of Portuguese and other immigrants. There will also be exhibits of the agricultural past and the industrial development of the 19th century.

**ROTATING EXHIBIT** — "Yema/Po" — A site at Lake Chabot, featuring an exhibit highlighting art discovered from a work camp of these laborers, featuring photographs and historical photographs.

Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 320 West Estrella Ave., San Leandro 510-577-3986.

**BERKELEY ART MUSEUM** — "Ecce Homo and Court Painters in Eighteenth-Century China," through June 27. An exhibit featuring artists who broke new ground painting traditions and "ecce homo" painters.

**Shadow**, photographs from the Leonard and Jerrold Peil Collection, through Aug. 8. An exhibit of photographs by pioneers in the field, including works by Roger May, Augustus Salzmänn, the Bischoffs and Timothy O'Sullivan.

**Matrix 210**, Simryn Gill's "Matrix 210," closing April 4. An exhibit of photographs taken in Malaysia during homes and large building projects that have been abandoned.

**1968-1978**, through April 26. An exhibit that explores the works of experimental art and architecture of the 1960s, featuring 200 objects, including photographs, drawings, collages, and ephemera.

**Garden**, through July 3. An exhibit featuring objects from the museum's Eastern and Western collections that either emerge from historical traditions or lend themselves to reflective reflections.

"Turning Corners," through Aug. 31. This exhibition looks at five centuries of innovative art and ideas from around the world through masterworks from the UC Berkeley Art Museum collections. On view are works by artist ranging from Albrecht Dürer, Peter Paul Rubens and Paul Gauguin to Jackson Pollock and Eva Hesse, and recent work by Jeanne Dunning, Xu Bing and Mona Hatoum.

**SPECIAL EVENT** — "First Impressions: Free First Thursdays," first Thursday of every month. Special tours and movie presentations. Free.

**S\$ general; \$5 seniors, students and youth ages 12 to 18; free children under age 12 and UC Berkeley students; free to all on first Thursday of the month.** Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-642-0808 or [www.bampfa.berkeley.edu](http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu)

**UC BERKELEY HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY** — "Hecho en Mexico: Mexican Folk Art," through June 27. An exhibit focusing on craft production and commerce in the Central and West Central regions as well as the Yucatan Peninsula to the east, allowing visitors to explore the diversity of folk art in Mexico.

**"Images from the Georgia-Hechnya Border, 1970-1980,"** through Aug. 1. An exhibit offering a rare and intimate look at the landscape, architecture, people and traditions of Khavureli, Georgia and neighboring Chechnya and Ingushetia, one of the most remote regions of the Caucasus.

**"Native California Cultures,"** ongoing. This is a permanent exhibit of some 500 artifacts from the museum's California collections, the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world devoted to California Indian cultures. The exhibit includes a section about Ishi, the famous Indian who lived and worked with the museum.

**Yana tribal baskets and a 17-foot Yurok canoe carved from a single redwood.**

**"A Century of Collecting,"** ongoing. The exhibition examines artifact collecting as a form of cultural representation, presenting objects from around the world. Displays focus on the systematic character of these collections and provide original contexts for the objects, which increases a viewer's understanding of the peoples who made and used the objects.

**\$2 general; \$1 seniors; \$0.50 youths ages 16 and under; free on Thursdays for all.** Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4:30 p.m. 102 Kroeber Hall, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley 510-642-3682 or <http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu>

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY** — "Tyrannosaurus Rex," ongoing. A 20-foot-tall, 40-foot-long

replica of the fearsome dinosaur. The replica is made from casts of bones of the most complete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated. When unearthed in Montana, the bones were all lying in place with only a small piece of the tailbone missing.

**"Pteranodon,"** ongoing. A suspended skeleton of a flying reptile with a wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The Pteranodon lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.

**"California Fossils Exhibit,"** ongoing. An exhibit of some of the fossils that have been excavated in California.

**Free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Lobby, Valley Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley 510-642-1821 or [www.ucmp.berkeley.edu](http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu)**

**POPULAR MUSIC**

**ALBATROSS PUB** — Pickpocket Ensemble, April 3. \$3.

**Whiskey Brothers**, April 7. Free "Anniversary Party Show" with Bluegrass Intentions, April 8, 8 p.m. There will be a buffet, prize drawings, pool and darts and old-time beers at old-time prices. Free.

**Unless otherwise noted, shows begin Wednesday 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-843-2473 or [www.albatrosspub.com/](http://www.albatrosspub.com/)**

**ASHKENAZ** — Wild Buds, Gary Gates Band, Funky Nikons, Day Late Fool's Band, April 2, 8 p.m. \$10 to \$20. Tom Rigney and Flambeau, April 3, 9 p.m. \$13.

**Brass Menagerie**, April 6, 8:30 p.m. \$9. The Creole Belles, Andrew Carriere, April 7, 8:30 p.m. \$9.

**Markus James, Wassonrai**, April 8, 9 p.m. \$9.

**O-Maya**, April 9, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Go Jimmy Go, Chris Murray, Solemate, The Soul Captives, April 10, 8:30 p.m. \$10 to \$12.

**1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com)**

**BECKETT'S IRISH PUB** — The Skin Divers, April 2. Rock 'n' Roll with Nicole, April 3 and April 10.

**Nicole and the Sisters in Soul**, April 7. San Francisco Medicine Ball, April 8. Thriving Ivory, April 9.

**Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley (510)647-1790 or [www.beckettsirishpub.com](http://www.beckettsirishpub.com)**

**BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH** — "Monday Night Blues Jam" with The Steve Gannon Band and M. Dee, Mondays. \$4. Acoustic Wednesday with Mikie Lee Prasad and guests, 10 p.m. Free.

**For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-848-0886 or [www.blakesontelegraph.com](http://www.blakesontelegraph.com)**

**CADILLAC RANCH** — "Five Dollar Fridays," 9:45 p.m. For ages 21 and

older. \$5. 1655 Willow Pass Road, Concord (925) 686-6809 or [www.tommyts.com/](http://www.tommyts.com/)

**CAL PERFORMANCES** — Baaba Maal and Daande Lenol, April 2, 8 p.m. \$22 to \$38. Zellerbach Hall, University of California at Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or [www.calperforms.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperforms.berkeley.edu)

**DOWNTOWN** — Sylvia and the Silverstones, April 2.

**Rhonda Benin and Souful Strut**, April 3. Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, April 6. Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, April 7.

**Kenji El Lebrjano Flamenco Guitar**, April 8. Jackie Ryan, Jeff Pittson Trio, April 9. Collective Amnesia, April 10.

**Free. Tuesday through Thursday, 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or [www.downtownrestaurant.com](http://www.downtownrestaurant.com)**

**FESTIVAL OPERA AND AUDUBON CELLARS** — "Wine, Women and Song," April 4, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A performance featuring a cappella chorus.

**Out Of The Blue and mezzo-soprano Lisa Houston. There will be wine and food as well. \$40 to \$50. Audubon Cellars, 600 Addison St., Berkeley. 925-280-6609 or [www.festivalopera.org](http://www.festivalopera.org)**

**FREIGHT AND SALVAGE** — The Waybacks, April 2. \$17.50 to \$18.50. Rory Block, April 3. \$18.50 to \$19.50. Adrian Legg, April 4. \$17.50 to \$18.50. John Wesley Harding, April 7. \$16.50 to \$17.50.

**Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys**, April 8 and April 9. \$29.50 to \$30.50.

**Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, (866) 468-3399 or [www.freightandsalvage.org/](http://www.freightandsalvage.org/)**

**THE JAZZ HOUSE** — Josh Roseman Unit, April 7. \$12 to \$15.

**Joel Futterman/Ike Levin/Alvin Fielder Trio**, April 9. \$18 general; \$15 seniors, students.

**Sam Rivers**, April 10, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. \$15 to \$20.

**Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley (415) 846-9432 or [www.thejazzhouse.org/](http://www.thejazzhouse.org/)**

**THE JAZZSCHOOL** — Ray Obiedo and The Urban Latin Jazz Project featuring Pete Escovedo, April 4, 4:30 p.m. \$12 to \$18.

**Mark Hummel**, April 10, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$18.

**Hardyman Hall, The Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373 or [www.jazzschool.com/](http://www.jazzschool.com/)**

**KIMBALLS EAST** — "Martha's Scandalous Speakeasy Show and Sexy Cirque Extravaganza," closing April 11. Singing, showgirls, circus acts and aerialists.

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p.m. 6005 Shellmond St., Emeryville 510-762-BASS or [www.kimballs.com](http://www.kimballs.com)

**LA PENAL CENTER** — Quinto Sol, Red Eye, Raigambre, April 2, 9 p.m. \$10 general; \$7 students.

**John Santos Quintet**, April 10, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$14.

**3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or [www.lapena.org](http://www.lapena.org)**

**924 GILMAN ST.** — Yaphet Kotto Takara, Confidante, Tatiana, A Light in The Attic, April 2.

**Time For Living, Killing the Dream, In Control, At Risk**, April 3.

**Look Back and Laugh, Iron Lung, Add-C, Ashtray**, April 9.

**Communiqué, Kissing Tiger, The New Trust, Pistolito, The Killer Watts**, April 10.

**All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9526 or [www.924gilman.org/](http://www.924gilman.org/)**

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** — "Groovin' for Grover," April 2, 8 p.m. A celebration of the music of Grover Washington featuring Richard Elliot, Gerald Albright, Paul Taylor and Jeff Lorber.

**\$39.50 to \$49.50. 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-625-TIXS or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)**

**QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE** — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursdays, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland (510)536-2050.

**SHATTUCK DOWN LOW** — Vinyl, April 2, 9 p.m. \$8.

**Amigos Do Samba**, April 3, 9 p.m. \$10. Will Bernard and Mother Bug, April 9, 9 p.m. \$7 general; \$5 students.

**Live Salsa Night**, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$10.

**For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or [www.shattuckdownlow.com/](http://www.shattuckdownlow.com/)**

**THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB** — Bill Holdens, The Cables, The Happy Clams, April 3. \$6.

**Bitches Brew, Flowtilla**, April 8. \$6. The Case Worker, Mimmae, Built Like Alaska, April 9. \$7.

**Spikedrivers, Anna Coogan and North**, April 10. \$7.

**For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted.**

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# THE DINING GUIDE

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AE	American Express	\$	Entrées under \$7
CB	Carie Blanche	\$	\$7-\$14
DC	Diners Club	\$\$\$	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$\$\$\$	\$20+
MC	MasterCard		
VS	Visa	FB	Full Bar
AC	All Cards accepted	RR	Reservations recommended
CA	Checks accepted	W	Wheelchair access

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Crucible

PAGE C10

polish gleaming metal, molten glass and swallow

this high-tech age, when are increasingly wedged crucibles and plugged into uters, getting your hands on light a creative fire.

here's a lot of accidental therapy happening here," says Sturtz. "We don't sit folks and say, 'OK, let's be creative it happens when you work with your hands.' He about the 30 adolescents Girls Inc. who recently a day at The Crucible a handful of female in-

then they arrived, most of wouldn't get near the smithing or welding stuff," by the end of the day, the were strutting, high-fiving other and bragging that could weld. "The more of we can do, the better," he

- Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
4. "Life of Pi," by Yann Martel. (Harvest, \$14.)
5. "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency," by Alexander McCall Smith (Anchor, \$11.95.)
6. "The Master Butchers Singing Club," by Louise Erdrich. (Perennial, \$13.95.)
7. "The Dancin' Club," by Matthew Pearl. (Random House, \$13.95.)
8. "Three Junes," by Julia Glass. (Anchor, \$14.)
9. "The Piano Tuner," by Daniel Philippe Mason. (Vintage, \$14.)
10. "Drop City," by T.C. Boyle. (Penguin, \$14.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
2. "The Devil in the White City," by Eric Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
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4. "Touching the Void," by Joe Simpson. (Perennial, \$12.95.)
5. "Fast Food Nation," by Eric Schlosser. (Perennial, \$13.95.)
6. "Funny in Farsi," by Firoozeh Dumas. (Random House, \$14.95.)
7. "Zagat San Francisco Bay Restaurants 2004," by Zagat editors. (Zagat Guides, \$12.95.)
8. "What Should I Do With My Life?" by Po Bronson. (Random House, \$14.95.)
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10. "Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling," by Ross King. (Penguin, \$15.)

Mass market paperback

1. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
2. "Deception Point," by Dan Brown (Pocket, \$7.99.)
3. "Digital Fortress," by Dan Brown (St. Martin's, \$7.99.)
4. "Lost Light," by Michael Connelly (Warner, \$7.99.)
5. "Back Story," by Robert B. Parker (Berkeley, \$7.99.)

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association



ONE HOT TICKET: Despite his origin, "Hellboy's" title character (played by Ron Perlman, above right) is a champion of good. Here he is battling the creature Sammael (played by Brian Steele). Below, Hellboy talks with his lady love, Liz Sherman (Selma Blair)

'Hellboy' will get comic-book fans all fired up

By Bruce Newman  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

In the first scene of "Hellboy," someone claiming to be Rasputin puts on a metal glove approximately the size of a Volvo, reaches through a portal to the fiery pit of hell, and delivers Satan's spawn to a group of beaming Nazi storm troopers.

This resolves the birth defect from which movies based on comic books frequently suffer: While they are explaining the origin of their caped crusader's powers — who can forget the trip from Krypton and Clark Kent's thrilling years in Smallville? — the audience is waiting for someone to open up a can of superhero whupass.

In "Hellboy," the little devil makes his entrance almost immediately, sprouting horns and a tail, and is greeted as a harbinger of the apocalypse by a Nazi she-wolf. It is only when we meet the grown-up Hellboy — doing bicep curls with a cigar planted in the corner of his mouth, still in full possession of all his hellboyish charm — that we learn he is now a superhero, who keeps cats.

A monster-slayer with a houseful of kitties might seem like reason for concern. But with "Hellboy," writer-director Guillermo Del Toro delivers the most successful transformation from pulp page to big screen since the first "Batman" movie. And with Ron Perlman, the Olivier of ogres in Hellboy's red muscle-suit, the picture maintains the dark sensibility of Mike Mignola's pulp serial so heroically that you can practically see the panels framing each scene.

REVIEW

- WHAT: "Hellboy"
- STARRING: Ron Perlman, John Hurt, Selma Blair, Jeffrey Tambor
- RATING: PG-13 (action violence, frightening images)
- RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 52 minutes
- WHERE: Opens today at area theaters
- GRADE: B

Raised like a son by Professor Trevor "Broom" Battenholm (John Hurt), Hellboy has conquered his evil impulses and developed his paranormal powers — not to mention his pecs and his lats. But he is also a Hellboy who wants "to fit in," so he keeps the horns that grow from his forehead ground down to stumps, hoping no one will notice the two giant knobs in the middle of his fire-engine red face.

Without a Batmobile to call his own, Hellboy does his crime-fighting from the back of a specially modified sanitation vehicle. "How am I ever going to get a girl?" he wonders mournfully. "I ride around in a garbage truck."

The girl he really wants is the one he grew up with at Prof. Broom's clandestine Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense (BPRD) — the pyro-kinetic Liz Sherman (Selma Blair). Hellboy has the hots for the firestarter, but all she has for him is smoky ambivalence. She may even have feelings for the young FBI agent (Rupert Evans) assigned to watch Hellboy, although what Liz thinks are feelings could just be gas.



The story's similarities to such previous pulp serials as "X-Men" and even "Raiders of the Lost Ark" are striking. As we already know from "Raiders," the Nazis were nutty for supernatural secret weapons, so it's no surprise that they would turn to what Prof. Broom — in some of the movie's rooey-tootiest dialogue — describes as "a place, a dark place, where ancient evil slumbers."

Like Prof. Xavier in "X-Men," Prof. Broom is one of those unmarried British academics with limitless government funding who seem to specialize in mutant adoption. He also has raised a telepathic merman named Abe Sapien (Doug Jones in a wet suit), who sounds like "Fraser's" Niles Crane, no doubt because the character's voice is provided by an uncredited David Hyde Pierce.

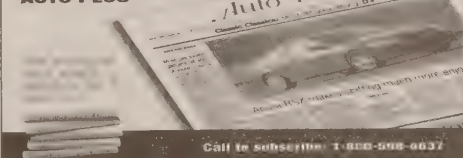
Hellboy is a big, muscular, shirtless superhero with red skin, who may remind some people of a big, muscular, shirtless superhero with green skin who arrived

in theaters less than a year ago. However, it is the dissimilarities between the two that are instructive: The Hulk was a dud. Hellboy's a stud.

It's not easy being green, and the Hulk wore his existential angst on his sleeve, or he would have if he'd had a sleeve. Hellboy doesn't have a secret identity, and most of his demons seem to be outer rather than inner. He wears his heart on his sleeve, or he would if he had a sleeve.

Here, finally, is a comic-book hero who can laugh at himself, and maybe even at us. Del Toro never lets the special effects get the better of him, and even is prone to see the beauty in a nondigital shot, such as his lovely overhead of umbrellas at a funeral. The story leads up to a long action set piece in a Russian cemetery that is as compelling visually as anything seen in Middle-earth during the past three years.

HILLS NEWSPAPERS AUTO PLUS



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. The undersigned, Trustee of the Trust, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, in law money of the United States, all payable at the time of the sale, the following described property, situated in the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California and described as follows: As more fully described above is purported to be: 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA. The undersigned disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trust, and of the costs created by said Deed of Trust in the amount of approximately \$47,690.00, pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the certain Deed of Trust described as: Trustee: Double Enterprises L.L.C., California Limited Liability Corporation, Inc., a California Corporation. Dated: May 29, 2002; recorded: July 12, 2002; as instr. No. 2002030131 of the Official records of the County of Alameda. Notice of Default was recorded December 11, 2003 as instr. No. 2003720323. We are a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: March 17, 2004. BARK, INC., as Trustee, 201 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, CA 94549, (925) 283-1771. Sale Date: (925) 283-8190 or (925) 283-8190.	NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. 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Said sale will be made, but without warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trust, and of the costs created by said Deed of Trust in the amount of approximately \$47,690.00, pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the certain Deed of Trust described as: Trustee: Double Enterprises L.L.C., California Limited Liability Corporation, Inc., a California Corporation. Dated: May 29, 2002; recorded: July 12, 2002; as instr. No. 2002030131 of the Official records of the County of Alameda. Notice of Default was recorded December 11, 2003 as instr. No. 2003720323. We are a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: March 17, 2004. BARK, INC., as Trustee, 201 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, CA 94549, (925) 283-1771. Sale Date: (925) 283-8190 or (925) 283-8190.

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# Arts & Leisure

Friday, April 2, 2004

JVMP



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Multimedia Notes

## Liberal talk needs a home

**S**O WHERE will Air America land? The liberal talk-show network, that is, not the C.I.A.-front airline.

It's been the biggest mystery in local radio for months.

I mean, here we are, the fourth-largest radio market in the country and almost certainly the most liberal politically, and the new chatnet that launched this week with Al Franken, Jannine Garofolo and Chuck D still won't announce an affiliate here until next week. What's up with this? Where will it land? I may have an answer:

Somehow, I see the strong, if unseen, hand of Disney in this. This is the company that, until Clear Channel's KNEW emerged as a conservative talk station recently, had no commercial talk competition in this market. (NPR doesn't count).

In fact, when Disney bought KSFO Radio and soon turned it into a right-wing megaphone a decade ago, KSFO-KGO operations manager Jack Swanson admitted to me, "If you're going to have competition, it might as well be yourself."

Swanson and his boss, Bay Area Disney overlord Mickey Luckoff, went out of their way to make KSFO appear independent from top-rated, 50,000-watt corporate sister station KGO. There were personality clashes between talk hosts at the two stations, and hosts were forbidden to mention the other's call letters. The two Disney stations' computer systems were even separated.

Given all this, it would seem that Disney's Oakland-licensed KMKY, or "Radio Disney," at 1310 AM, might be one candidate to take Franken et al. But Disney uses the station to relentlessly market its products — this IS, after all, the company that "monetized childhood," as one critic memorably put it. So I'm guessing it's a long shot Radio Disney will become Radio Liberal.

Since Air America affiliates in other major markets have tended to be low-rated stations, this has fueled speculation about Viacom/Infinity's sole talk station here, KYCY-AM, aka "Yadda Yadda," possibly taking Air America. This low-rated AM station, with one of the worst dial positions (1550 AM) and signals around, has been a dumping ground for Infinity-owned Westwood One's unsold talk-show inventory for years.

Also mentioned in all the speculation: Another low-rated Infinity AM, oldies KFRC, which, unlike 1550, has a powerful AM signal but still gets the bulk of its ratings from its FM sister station at 99.7. KFRC carries the As, a possible hitch. Since talk radio, traditionally heard on AM stations, has been having success in other markets lately on FM, there's also been rumors about Air America going to Infinity's "Alice 97.3," which has been floundering in the ratings. Infinity also has another low-rated FM station at 93.3: The former KYCY-FM is now simulcasting with South Bay station KBAY. But just a few weeks back, it briefly ran infomercials after being dropped as a Young Country station by Infinity.

One scenario I hope doesn't pan out: Clear Channel dropping Big Band KABL (960 AM's) format and adding a second talk station. I like Franken, but I like Frank (Sinatra) even more. And Bonneville's KOIT-AM, the old KDRC-FM at 1260, also seems a long shot. Its small ratings added to the Bay Area's top-rated music station, KOIT-FM, mean extra advertising bucks.

One intriguing possibility I've been hearing more and more: Little-known, Berkeley-licensed KVTO, at 1400 AM, an Asian-language station with studios in San Francisco. It's the corporate sister station of Berkeley's prosperous KBLX-FM, owned by Inner City Broadcasting. The 1,000-watt station has a decent signal. And what better place for a liberal station than in Berkeley?

Reach Bill Mann at News-mann@sonic.net



**THE FIRE ARTS** at The Crucible can cover anything from working with molten metals, as in this bronze pour and in celebrating the power and beauty in a fire dance, below.

## Forging artistic connections

■ The Crucible fires up creative inspiration for industrial-strength art

By Suzanne LaFetra  
CORRESPONDENT

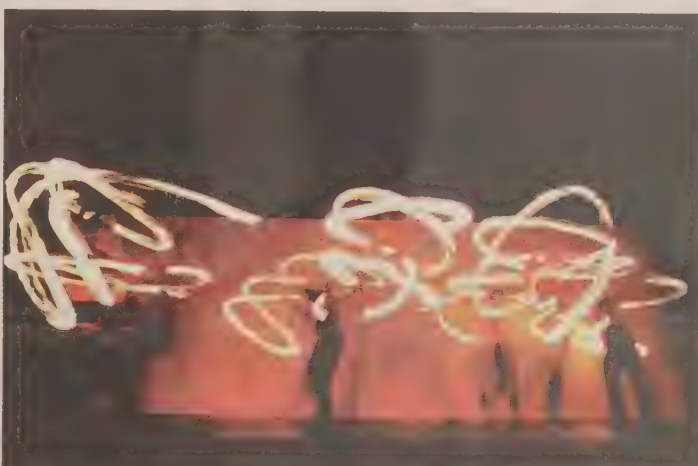
What do a blacksmith, an antique fire truck, a fire-eater and a 3,000-degree kiln have in common? They are all part of The Crucible, a not-for-profit industrial arts training center in West Oakland.

In a 48,000-square-foot building that was a cardboard tube factory in a past life, glass blowers, neon sign makers, TIG welders and silversmiths thrive at the fire arts school. Over the roar of the forges, Executive Director Michael Sturtz describes the highly competitive, unsupportive atmosphere at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago where he earned his master's degree in fine arts.

"There were too many artists, and not enough people, if you know what I mean," he says with a grin.

After graduate school, Sturtz returned to his East Bay roots, determined to make creative work more accessible, and help artists get together in a more supportive environment. He began hosting informal gatherings in his West Oakland art studio (dubbed Bronze Casting BBQ Weekends) and started networking. And, kaboom! Five years ago, The Crucible exploded into existence.

"It's really OK to be a beginner here," Sturtz says, as he steps over the live railroad spur that bisects his workplace. He shows off delicate swirling glass bottles and hammered copper bracelets. Behind him a group of students is fussing over tiny circuit boards, studying kinetic art. Later, they'll



### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** The Crucible's Open House and Student Art Exhibition  
**WHERE:** 1260 7th St., Oakland  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 3, noon-6 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free  
**INFORMATION:** 510-444-0919 or [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org)

dissect the vintage pinball machine that waits in the corner. In another classroom, an instructor of Property of Metals points to a whiteboard filled with squiggles. "In theory, when it rains, the airplane should dissolve, but it doesn't because..." But Sturtz forges ahead, saying, "Our teachers don't have to have a master's degree. But they do need to have passion."

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Crucible Collection Benefit Auction, free admission  
**WHEN:** Thursday, April 8, 6:30-9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland  
**INFORMATION:** 510-444-0919 (The Crucible) or 510-525-7621 (New Leaf Gallery); preview sculptures at [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org) or [www.sculpturesite.com](http://www.sculpturesite.com)

Sturtz grew up working in an auto body shop, and his father is a surgeon. No wonder then, that he is adept not only at sculpting and metalworking, but is also a genius when it comes to running his organization.

The artist cum social entrepreneur strolls past a \$100,000

glass kiln, an 80-year-old G&E metal planer, an enormous cast iron fountain that once spouted water in downtown Oakland, all of which have been donated to the nonprofit. Last year the organization moved from Berkeley into its new home in West Oakland, and since then, sparks have really started flying.

The Crucible has just celebrated its fifth birthday, but the fire arts school already has many glowing accomplishments. It has purchased and is outfitting its new headquarters. It hosts red-hot, public eye-catching events like the sold-out Fire Opera in January. And this year, it will offer more than 100 courses. Sturtz expects 3,000 students to flow through The Crucible's roll-up doors this year to hammer on

See CRUCIBLE, Page C9

## Writer to speak about journey through Africa

By Bruce Gerstman  
STAFF WRITER

Cattle filled the back of a truck carrying Paul Theroux from Ethiopia to Kenya. It was the only way to cross the border by road, he said.

Bandits on the road started firing gunshots at the truck. A man next to him — a Kenyan soldier — told him not to worry. The bandits only wanted Theroux's shoes.

This is how the travel writer decided to celebrate his 60th birthday.

"It's what travel in Africa is all about," he said. "It's not fun, but it's interesting."

And he will discuss this journey, chronicled in one of his latest books, "Dark Star Safari," next week at Oakland's Diesel, A Bookstore.

Theroux has written 38 novels and non-fiction books over the last four decades. "Darkstar" depicts his adventures through a dozen African countries in 2001, and then for a month after Sept. 11.

His trip was more than a birthday present to himself. It was a quest to see how Africa had changed from the time he lived in Malawi as a Peace Corps volunteer and in Uganda as an English professor — 40 years ago.

He was in Malawi when it first gained independence from England, a time when other African nations were doing the same. When he moved, he saw civil wars, tribal wars and corrupt governments take over

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Paul Theroux discusses his book, "Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town."  
**WHERE:** Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 5

many of the countries since that time.

"I wanted to see what independence had done," he said. "I thought the best way to do it was to see."

His method of seeing the country was by land. He said this is how he generally prefers to travel, from buses to hitch-hiking, to immerse himself in other cultures. He told few of the many people he encountered that he was writing a book.

What he saw were crumbled strips of former roads, as well as broken-down classrooms that once served children as good schools. And he returned from his journey saying that more humanitarian aid is not the answer.

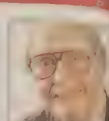
He argues that assistance for building roads, harvesting crops and building infrastructure has actually contributed to the hardships. On the occasion that aid gets beyond government thugs to people living in poverty, it fails to put them in a situation where they help themselves, he said.



**PAUL THEROUX** is the author of 38 novels and non-fiction books.

"My sense of optimism would arise from families who could live self-sufficiently in that situation," he said.

Reach Bruce Gerstman at 510-339-4506 or by e-mail at [bgerstman@cctimes.com](mailto:bgerstman@cctimes.com).



**JACK TUCKER**  
Community Theatre

## Two big shows set for tonight

**T**WO BIG productions open tonight: The Crucible Playhouse Richmond begins a run of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," and a tad away, Contra Costa Music Theatre in Walnut Creek splashes in with the premiere of "TITANIC Musical." (The name is to show it was a big ship)

"Titanic" is almost a townie castwise. A dozen actors from West Contra Costa and nearby cities in Alameda County are playing major roles.

Ship's officers include Newton and Steve Rhyne of Oakland. The band director is John Michael Brown of Emeryville. And the head of the production is Alan Cameron of Oakland.

First-class passengers singing roles include Chris Macomber and Joy Breen of Oakland and Dean Starr of Berkeley. Second class passengers (it's just a play, folks) include Jessica Fisher of El Cerrito and Henry Perkins of Oakland.

Filling out the East Bay list are Paulette Herring of Berkeley, Jessica Mager of Rankin of Pinole, and Al Schoedel of Oakland.

"Titanic" is directed by Ivey Berman, with music direction by Karl Pister, and choreography by Jennifer Perry.

Plays Thursdays-Sundays through May 1 at the Del Lesh Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. For times and ticket prices, call 925-943-SHO.

### MOSTLY ABOUT HIM

**NAME:** "The Glass Menagerie" is a drama of tenderness and poetic beauty despite its Depression-era setting and a pair of melancholy, introverted characters. Williams to Broadway in 1944 and won the New York Critics' Circle award as best play of the season.

"The Glass Menagerie" tells the story of Amanda Wingfield, a poor and faded remnant of Southern gentility; her son Tom (read Williams) a man who is writer trapped in a numbing warehouse job; her daughter, Laura, crippled physically and emotionally.

Amanda strives to give meaning and direction to her children, especially to Laura, who happily married a nagging drives Tom to drink.

The crux comes when brings home Jim, "a gentleman caller" for Laura. They hit it off. But then...

"The Glass Menagerie" must-see for anyone who wants to experience the full range of breadth and depth of the Williams canon.

Plays at 8 p.m. Friday Saturdays, with selected day matinees at 2:30 p.m. through May 8 at the Crucible Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Richmond. Tickets \$13. Call 510-232-4031.

### APE CRAFTS MART

**SHOW:** Acme Players Ensemble (APE), one of the East Bay's newest and arguably most innovative theater groups, will hold auditions Sunday April 4, for a monthly comedy/drama about life and fall and possible redemption of Martha Stewart.

Join in Winer, self-named Head Monkey, is looking for actors, writers, improvisers, chefs and craftspeople — you read it right.

Each performance, scheduled for the second Sunday each month, will include a creation and possible consumption of a dish or craft with audience. That "craft" might be a tad tough on molars, however.

"This is not mere satire," Winer says, "but an exploration of the drive to perfection of us, to which Martha happens, merely a sacrifice, tend to have a fun time."

Auditions will be held and readings at 2525 Elgin St., Berkeley, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Winer at 510-332-1111.

Reach Jack Tucker at [jtucker@cctimes.com](mailto:jtucker@cctimes.com).



# Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, April 2, 2004

Section D

**MICHELLE KREBS**  
She's Freewheeling

## Two focusing on the lucrative male market

**MOTOR MATTERS**  
One of the gutsiest moves I've seen in a long time came from the Swedish automaker Volvo, which unveiled its worldwide debut at the Geneva, Switzerland, auto show of a concept car created by a team of female designers, engineers and marketers.

Why gutsy? Most automakers are focusing on male buyers, from Honda and Toyota, which want "the world's active male" to buy their vehicles, to luxury makers like Mercedes-Benz, which has gone aggressive and sporty with its S-Class to attract more male buyers, as it has become too popular with women.

Volvo marketers figure a specific car idea for women was conceived after Mari Barletta, a U.S. on female consumer panelist, told Volvo officials she exceeded the expectations of men," she told Volvo officials.

Volvo designers, engineers and marketers at Volvo took that as a challenge and proposed to make a car that would appeal to women.

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**BMW'S NEW 6 Series** is a "reward" car. It's not going to be the primary driving car, rather number three or four in an owner's garage. It comes in coupe and convertible models with a standard six-speed manual transmission.

## BMW brings back a classic for 2004: The 6 Series

**MOTOR MATTERS**

After a 15-year absence, BMW re-enters the coupe and convertible segment with the glamorous, high-performance 2004 6 Series.

A 325-horsepower, V8 engine powers the subcompact 645Ci coupe and 645Ci convertible, both classified as 2+2 seaters.

The 32-valve, 4.4-liter V8 powerplant produces its 325 horsepower at 6,100 rpm and 330 pounds-foot of torque at 3,600 rpm.

The 645Ci comes standard equipped with a six-speed manual transmission, but is also available

with either a six-speed automatic transmission or a six-speed Sequential Manual Gearbox, called SMG for short.

A car such as the 6 Series isn't all about performance — it's about looks. On my test-drive of the 6 Series, a fellow auto writer colleague drove up beside me in his 645Ci tester on Southern California's Pacific Coast Highway, and my heart was set on fire.

It was the way the sun glinted on the gorgeous, rolling 19-inch wheels that made me do a double take of the all-new 6 Series.

**CONNIE KEANE**  
Keane on Wheels

The 19-inch wheels with W-rated summer tires are part of the \$2,800 Sport Package that includes sport seats and an Active Steering system.

One of the benefits of active steering, which electronically varies the steering ratio, is that certain tasks become simpler.

BMW says the steering wheel movements are reduced in man-

euvers such as U-turns, parking and steering in sharp corners. During my test drive I didn't detect a single thing about this system, so I suppose it worked without detection.

I drove the coupe with the automatic transmission up through the curvy, winding two-lane highways of Malibu Canyon and Mulholland Drive. The automatic transmission is fantastic. Its shift timing is superb, especially on downshifting when descending steep grades.

The sound and feel of engine braking made this an exciting, lux-

ury coupe that made the handling sport-oriented.

The iDrive system, which controls climate, navigation and audio, requires a college basics 101 course. I fiddled around for quite some time with the "mouse" and other buttons before gaining any minimum level of competence at turning on the radio and turning up the volume.

People who actually buy this car, however, will get the full tutorial and add summa cum laude in iDrive to

See KEANE, Page D2

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# '22 Ford Model T becomes a family's joy

MOTOR MATTERS

Dave Wright got hooked on Ford automobiles in 1950 when he was a high school senior in Columbus, Wis. His first car was a 1937 Ford coupe.

"I felt like a king in that 85-horsepower machine," he recalls. He says the gasoline heater was not up to its battle with Wisconsin winters.

In 1958, with the Ford in storage, Wright and his bride, Betty, moved to West Palm Beach, Fla. "Soon after the move I read where an antique car club was going to organize," Wright says.

After attending the organizational meeting, Wright determined that he had to retrieve his Wisconsin Ford or look for a different antique car.

"I thought a Ford Model A with a rumble seat would be just great," he says. Then one Sunday evening in March 1963, he saw an ad offering a 1922 Model T Ford. "The address was only about seven miles from my home," he says.

"At 10:30 that evening I called the party and was told to come right over and look at it."

Wright grabbed a flashlight and rushed across town. The garage had no lights but with the flashlight he was able to see a dusty, dirty Model T touring car with a dead bat-

**VERN PARKER**  
Classic Classics

tery and one flat tire.

"It had no top or top bows," Wright remembers, "and someone had brush-painted the wood spoke wheels and the upholstery a faded red."

In a moment of weakness, Wright saw potential and so he dickered with the owner and bought the car. "The next step was to go home and tell my wife what 'we' had purchased," he says.

"The next day, armed with a new battery and a tire pump, and lots of apprehension we went to drive our purchase home," Wright says.

He had never driven a Model T before, but how difficult could it be to learn?

In five minutes of training he learned that all the way down on the left pedal is low gear and all the way out is high gear. The middle pedal is reverse and the pedal on the right is the brake.

The throttle and the spark advance levers are on the steering column. "Nothing to it," Wright thought, and chugged off with the 20-horsepower, four-cylinder engine misfiring.

Wright enlisted the aid of neigh-

bor John Kiner who not only owned Model T Fords but also restored them. "I was his apprentice on this restoration project," Wright says.

"In less than a year my dream was fully restored."

"The fenders and running boards were removed and sanded, and when I thought the body was sanded well enough, Kiner would say 'not good enough.'"

The engine and planetary transmission were removed and overhauled. A new top was stretched over the bows and upholstery was installed. All the parts of the car were painted.

The easy part of restoration was deciding what color all the parts of the car should be: Black, of course. The engine serial number indicates the car was built in August of 1922 and sold new in Connecticut with a base price of \$348.

Following the restoration of the Model T Wright sold his 1937 Ford. In 1969 the Wrights moved back to Columbus, Wis. The Model T made the trip in a rented truck.

In the 40 years the Wrights have owned the Ford it has helped them gather a lifetime of fond memories including the many parades, car shows and dignitaries chauffeured. Wright was especially happy driving the country back roads at a slow



**FORMER OWNER** retains visitation rights to this fully restored 1922 Ford Model T after selling it. he developed health problems.

speed where he says you can actually see the beauty of nature.

During a garage sale last autumn, Wright tied balloons to his 1922 Ford and parked it in his front yard to attract attention. One man stopped to inquire if the car was for sale. Wright said no.

A couple of hours later the man

stopped again and received the same answer. This scenario continued all day until Wright, who recently had some health problems, realized that he had found a good home for his Ford.

The car was sold but Wright retains visitation rights. "This car has been a joy to us and has never

failed us," Wright concludes. For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view), brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Abbottsford Vienna, VA 22181.

Only photos of good quality be considered.

## Freewheeling

FROM PAGE D1

agement that they create a car to meet the needs of women buyers, who, their own studies showed, were more demanding than men in the premium segment in which Volvo competes.

Your Concept Car, as it is called, which makes its first U.S. appearance at the New York auto show in April and goes on tour afterward, is unlikely to go into production as is, Volvo officials said, but features from it may show up in future production vehicles.

In introducing the car, Hans-Olov Olsson, president and CEO of Volvo Cars in Sweden, noted the company did not build "a boxy pink car with lots of child seats."

The four-seat coupe features a low hood line for enhanced visibility. Its two doors open skyward like gull wings; its bottom sills power down for easy entry and exit. Inside, the flavor is distinctly Scandinavian.

The seats, including the front-passenger seat, fold for cargo carrying. When upright, their cushions can be customized with various fabrics, and in the case of the YCC as it was displayed in Geneva, features embroidery trim.

Storage abounds and includes a large center console with storage areas from small, for keys and mobile phones, to large, big enough for a purse or laptop computer. Other bins serve as a wastepaper basket and another is refrigerated.

The gear shifter is moved to the steering wheel. The handbrake is electronic to clear the space between the two front seats for the console.

To provide the optimum visibility, the YCC automatically adjusts the seating position, pedals and steering wheel to the best line of vision, which can be overrid-

den by the driver. The key "remembers" the position and adjusts the car to the driver every time.

For minimal maintenance, the YCC features two capless filling points like those on racecars. One is for gas; the other for windshield washer fluid so there's no fumbling with caps for the gas tank or opening the hood to fill the washer.

The lower part of the car is wrapped in a plastic material to prevent dents and dings. The exterior is of an easy-clean paint that repels dirt.

Press a park button on the steering wheel and the car helps the driver steer the car into a tight parking space.

Following the New York auto show in

late April, the YCC will go to the National Women's Museum of Art in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with an exhibit of Nordic art by women. From there it will go to college campuses.

In addition to simply showcasing the concept car, Volvo hopes the YCC will make the automaker more attractive as an employer to women.

Volvo claims to employ more women than any other automaker, with 27 percent of the workers being female. However, only 12 percent are management; the goal is to have 20 percent in management, said Volvo's Olsson. He said he hopes the public displays of the YCC will lead to a flood of female job applicants at Volvo.



MOTOR MATTERS

**YOUR CONCEPT CAR** is a vehicle designed by and for women by Volvo.

## BMW 645Ci

Vehicle Type	Four-passenger RWD subcompact coupe
Suggested Retail	\$69,995
Price as Tested	\$72,795
Engine Type	DOHC 32-valve, 4.4-liter V8
Horsepower	325 at 6,000 rpm
Torque	330 at 3,600 rpm
Transmission	Six-speed automatic
Wheelbase	109 inches
Height	54 inches
Curb Weight	3,792 pounds
Fuel Capacity	19 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 18/26

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## Keane

FROM PAGE D1

to their CVs.

The 645Ci coupe starts at \$69,995 and the 645Ci convertible starts at \$76,995.

I had a brief opportunity to drive the convertible equipped with the six-speed manual transmission. It was thrilling to hear the aggressive sounds out the dual exhaust pipes when hitting the gas and shifting quickly through the gears.

The convertible top is ingeniously designed to be more than just a top that goes up or down.

The top can stay up in the locked position, while all four-passenger windows are lowered, and — get this — the rear glass window lowers, too.

I drove the back roads with the top lowered and enjoyed the full force of California sunshine beating down on me.

As soon as I prepared to enter the Interstate, I held a button to electronically raise the top, but drove along with all five windows lowered, enjoying the rush of cool wind all around.

The 6 Series is a "reward" car. It's not going to be the primary driving car. The 6 will be car number three or four in an owner's garage.

BMW expects owner demographics to skew predominantly male, mid-50s, who are very on the go with tennis and golf excursions.

And, yes, there is enough room for carrying two golf bags. BMW says the trunks of these 2+2 models are equivalent to the roominess of a midsize sedan's trunk.

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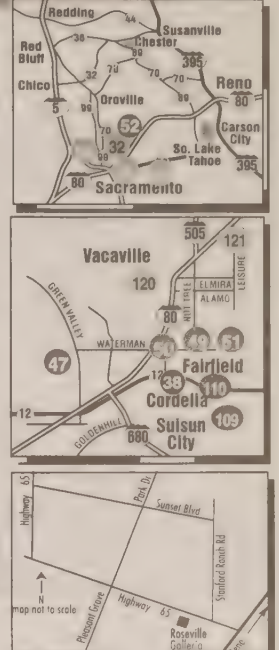
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Employment

**ACCOUNTING**  
Job offers, employment agencies, jobs wanted.

**Employment Aids**  
ADMINISTRATION  
Thriving niche software company needs a part-time, responsible person to administer sales and service calls, handle phones, A/R, and purchase orders. Must be a salesperson with excellent sales skills. Must be able to handle customer service and sales meetings and presentations. Requires attention to detail, good computer & people skills. Long-term opportunity in college town. Salary \$18,000. Send resume to: 9363 North Road, Oakland Int'l Airport, Oakland, CA 94621. Apply online at: www.silerra.com

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A New Level of Success  
With Sequoia Institute, Sierra AP, and Call Now! 888-261-6635. 9363 North Road, Oakland Int'l Airport, Oakland, CA 94621. Apply online at: www.silerra.com

**Domestics**  
BABYSITTER 6/14-8/20, 10 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Kids, must have car. Call 925-942-0547 Refs.

**CAREGIVER** Disabled person to help nursing home. 3 hrs, 925-846-3948

**CAREGIVER** Live-in, 10 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

**CAREGIVER** Live-in, 10 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

**CAREGIVER** Manager 6 bed ROF. Mature, experienced. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

**CHILD CARE** Live-in care. 10 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

**HOUSEKEEPER** Nanny. 10 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

**MOTHERS HELPER** 2 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

**NANNY** 3 boys (toddlers). 10 hrs/week. \$10-12/hr. Pk widows 925-846-3948

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## Employment

### INVENTORY & PLANNING COORD.

We are Brown Cow Farms a small but growing business with a tradition of making super premium, genuinely natural yogurt & we are committed to supplying our customers with quality foods. We currently have an opening for an Inventory & Planning Coordinator.

Responsibilities incl. monitoring the movement of materials and inventory through the manufacturing process. You will prepare daily & monthly production reports which incl. variance analysis, cost analysis, inventory control status, stock status, production expenses, manpower analysis & productivity analysis. You must be able to work weekends at the end of each fiscal mo. to conduct and reconcile physical inventories against the perpetual records.

Our ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree and 3-5 years of inventory control, verbal & written communication skills as well as the ability to prioritize & meet deadlines. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel & Access are a must. If you are a team player & like the idea of being part of an exciting, growth oriented co., we may be the place for you. We offer a competitive salary & benefits, plus you must include your current sal. (or specific salary expectation) w/ your correspondence.

**Brown Cow**  
3810 Delta Fair Blvd.  
Antioch, CA 94509  
or email at Resumes@browncowfarm.com  
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE  
Brown Cow is an equal opportunity employer.

## The BIGGEST Job Board

In The East Bay  
builder.com

## Employment

### INVESTIGATOR First Advantage Corporation

Concord, CA has PT openings for investigators with computer literacy, good typing, analytical skills, & fluency in Spanish or French is a plus. Hours are flexible M-F, 10:00-6:00. Email resumes to HR@adv.com and list PT call in the subject line. First Advantage Corporation is an EEO/AAEP employer.

### JANITORIAL

#### Marriott

**Walnut Creek JANITOR** Dependable exp. Janitor to keep our hotel looking beautiful. Req'd gds. communication skills & attention to detail. Ability to lift 75 lbs. up to 70 lbs. FT/grayed team split, variable nights & weekends. Apply Tues-Thurs at 2335 N. Main or fax res. 925-933-6043

### JCPENNY CUSTOM DECORATING IS EXPANDING!

Due to growth, JCPenney Custom Decorating is seeking the following for our stores:

Newspark Mall: Decorators  
Sun Valley Mall: Decorators  
Hilltop Mall: Studio coordinators & installers

We offer full company benefits and merchandise discounts. For consideration please call or fax res. to Annette Pfister 707-422-0320 x124 707-421-2133 fax

### JCPENNY Custom Decorating Studio

EOE/M/F/V/H

### LANDSCAPE AREA MGR.

For rapidly growing Livermore based co. indiv. must be cust. serv. oriented w/ comm. coord. & installers. Comp. sks. + comm. Call Steve 925-955-5130 fax res. 449-4708 Web ID CC0321691892

### LANDSCAPE Construction Foreman

Resid. Design/Build Min. 3 Years Exp. Req. 925-837-2555 Web ID CC0328703940

## Employment

### LANDSCAPE: Estimator & purchasing person.

Outlets incl. take off & purchasing for upcom. ing projects. Must be self motivated, goal oriented team player. Knowledge of irri. gations & planting req. along w/ comp. skills. Email res. & sal req. mikes@baunmanland.com

### LAW ENFORCEMENT Investigation Services

The Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department (EHSD) announces Rec. # 217 to seek indivs. or organizations to provide law enforcement personnel pre employment background investigations. Incl. pre-employment polygraph exams, to potential candidates for positions in the County's Welfare Fraud Unit. A 1-yr. contract up to \$10,000 will be awarded to successful candidate. For add'l. information and requirements, visit www.ehdsd.org/777

### Leasing Agent, Self Storage

Company seeking mature individuals to be team members. Full time position plus benefits. Please send resume to 858-485-5353 kathy@pssholdings.com

### LEASING CONSULTANT

Positive, detail oriented person needed to assist potential clients & current residents. Exp. req. must work weekends. Bkgrnd. check & hair analysis required. Info & resume to 925-256-4454

### LEGAL SECRETARY, F/T

925 in sm. S.R. legal sec. w/ 2 yrs. exp. Cte. Req. exp'd w/ estate planning & civil lit. excel. grammar & typing skills; use of time slips. Fax resume to 925-836-6313 Web ID CC0323694445

### LEGAL SECRETARY, F/T

927 FT. Work from home. Cte. Req. exp'd w/ estate planning & civil lit. excel. grammar & typing skills; use of time slips. Fax resume to 925-836-6313 Web ID CC0323694445

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## Employment

### LEGAL SECRETARY

Concord, easy going in-house legal department seeks motivated, detail-oriented legal secretary to join its team. Should possess at least 5 yrs. experience in civil litigation, preferably experience with real estate or probate matters. Knowledge of WP 8 and Abacus card filing program preferred. Please send resume to D. Thomas, 2890 N. Main St., #200, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 (925) 930-9550 ext. 710 FAX (925) 930-9586 rthomas@inf.com

### Web ID CC0328703940

### LEGAL SECRETARY

See our ad under "Medical legal sec." Need Not Apply. EOE Web ID CC0321692661

### LEGAL SECRETARY

W.C. firm seeks secy. No exp. nec. Must type 45 WPM. Fax resume 925-939-1136

### LEGAL SM. congenial

law firm seeks F/T legal sec'y, w/ 2 yrs. legal exp. & exp. comm. skills req. Bkgrnd. check & hair analysis required. Info & resume to 925-256-4454

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busy top rated unit in F.R. live 925-939-1136 388/val 925-671-6400 Web ID CC0328704621

### LOAN OFFICER: For top

broker. Every major lender. Up to 90% split & leads. 925-939-1136 Web ID CC0321689548

### LOAN OFFICER: Fortune

500 R.E. co. seeks in-house loan officer. Leads provided. Tracy Loc. Email: marilyn@rnetwork.com Web ID CC0328705309

### LOAN OFFICERS

Danville office. Fax Resume: 925-743-0650 Web ID CC0331709604

### LOAN OFFICERS

Be a "High Volume" loan consultant working the most aggressive sales. Purchase and generation program avail. for business development. We have expanded into our new executive office and want to add you to our team. Call Rick or Dave at 925-246-9300 for info.

### BANK OF WALNUT CREEK affiliate.

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### LOAN OFFICERS, Lead

work from home. Top commissions. Fax info/res. 925-666-2714

### LOAN OFFICERS

No experience necessary. Will train professionals interested in home loans. 925-295-1200 x121 Web ID CC0325666127

### LOAN OFFICERS

We are looking for highly motivated loan officers who want to grow their business to their maximum capacity. Cherry Creek Mortgage has absolutely the finest & most effective referral system in the industry to do that. To learn how to help you in your quest for high personal achievement, call Tom Ward at 925-939-1136. You will be glad you did it. Info: 925-939-1136 Web ID CC0402732866

### LOAN OFFICERS

We offer a competitive base salary, commission on full range of benefits including 401(k) plan. Email your resume and salary history to: man@amsmortgage.com or fax to (925) 489-1999 EOE.

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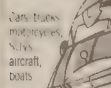






# The Auto Section

## Transportation



## Sport Utility Vehicles

**NISSAN 2000 Xterra AT**, loaded, 64k, silver 4x4, \$13,900 925-366-8882

**NISSAN 1992 Pathfinder** 4x4, AC, C.C., tow, runs, rt \$3600 707-374-4915

**NISSAN 1987 Pathfinder** 1500, 925-497-4101

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**SUZUKI 1993 Sidekick** JX4, 4x4, 4 cyl, 4 dr, AT, pw, jk, fair, cond. Call Jeff 805-634-9892

**TOYOTA 1999 Rav4** AT, PS, A/C, Alloys Sold! Exp. 4/2/2004 **TOYOTALMUTECREEK.COM** (925) 933-7440

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 2001 Sequoia** Ltd, 2WD, 32k, warr, \$28.5K 925-314-1823

**TOYOTA 2001 Sequoia** Ltd, 4wd, loaded, 54k, \$29,800 925-925-9877

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 2003 Explorer XLT** 4x4, AT, A/C, 3rd Row Seat Clean #C34036 Sold! Exp. 4/2/2004 **TOYOTALMUTECREEK.COM** (925) 933-7440

**TOYOTA 1998 Rav 4** 2wd, AT, 51K, excel, SOLD

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 1997 Land-cruiser** 4x4, excel, 13K, cert #153079, \$16,900 925-260-3902

**TOYOTA 2000 4Runner** LTD, Lthr, Mnt, Toyota Cert #153079, \$16,900 925-260-3902

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 1996 Landcruiser** 4x4, excel, \$13,995 925-784-5849

**TOYOTA 1992 Land Cruiser** 100k, loaded, excel, cond, \$7500, 925-827-1709

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 1991 4Runner** SRS, 4dr, 127K, loaded, excel, cond, \$7500, 925-939-9734

**TOYOTA 1990 4Runner** SRS, V6, snr, 4x4 A/C, AT \$4850 925-162-1657

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 1989 Landcruiser** 160K, \$5500 obo runs great 510-691-8230 after 4pm

## Sport Utility Vehicles

**TOYOTA 2002 RAV4 LTD** AT, PS, A/C, 36K cert #059635 \$17,888 **TOYOTALMUTECREEK.COM** (925) 933-7440

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**AMC 1973 & 74 Javelins** Both \$5500 or trade for VW van/7 925-709-9818

**BUICK 1957 Super 4dr** HT, 510K 925-679-0259

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**CHEVROLET 1968 Camaro** 327 V8, AT, orig cond, 88K 925-671-9869

**CHEVROLET 1967 Corvete** Sting Ray Coupe, 327/300 4sp, 85 match, \$36,900 925-426-2419

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**CHEVROLET 1956 Panel** Wgn \$2500/bom Sell 925-674-0888 mr. #143

**CHEVROLET 1957 210 V8** wgn, 350w/OD, runs gd, \$4500 925-672-1002

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**CHRYSLER 1978 Ram** 93K mi, Good, Must Sell \$15000 925-212-1087 938-1647

**DODGE 1977 Diplomat** 93K mi, Good, Must Sell \$15000 925-212-1087 938-1647

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**DODGE 1973 Mustang** 2, SOLD

**FORD 1967 Mustang** As is \$2700 925-768-0117

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**FORD 1966 Mustang** 167 Mustang, '56 Ford truck, '65 Barricade, '70 Riviera, 925-755-9695

**FORD 1966 Mustang** Fastback, 289 & barrel, A/C, runs gd, Needs TLC \$5000

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**MOA 1960 1600, 500 mi** on frame off restoration, Red/gray, lthr, Warr, w/o, car & tools \$10 945-9056 94

**PONTIAC 1958 Chieftain** 4dr, hardtop, all apart ready for restoration \$2900, 925-210-1958.

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**STUDEBAKER 1964** \$4900 Ant 925-754-0606

**CHRYSLER 2001 Prowler** One of a kind, #700023 \$32,788 **DUBLIN DODGE** 800-255-4919

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**ACURA 2001 3.2CL, Type S** AT, nav, On-star, \$18,999, 925-281-4119

**ACURA 2002 RSX, 5 door** htdchk, 15K, xint, sport pkg, loaded, 1 owner, CD \$18.5K 510-658-5430

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**ACURA 1999 3.2TL, xint** cond, warr, 53K, warr, 199K, 925-890-1365

**ACURA 1999 Integra GS** Cpc, Auto, Low mi, Warr \$20,942 811-8000

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**ACURA 1998 Integra** 4 cyl, AT, AC, stereo, ABS, 50K, 132K orig, \$9400, 925-833-9435

**ACURA 1997 CL, 5spd**, fully loaded, excel, cond, \$15,250, 925-783-1063

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**ACURA 1996 Integra** LS, \$5900 925-207-5980

**ACURA 1995 2.7L, 215K**, \$4500, 925-570-5046

## Custom & Classic Vehicles

**ACURA 1994 Integra** LS, red, 3dr, cpc, excel, \$4800 SOLD

**ACURA 1993 Integra** \$3500/bu 925-349-6662

## Automobiles

**BMW 2002 540i, 5dr, 28K** \$40,500 925-876-8884

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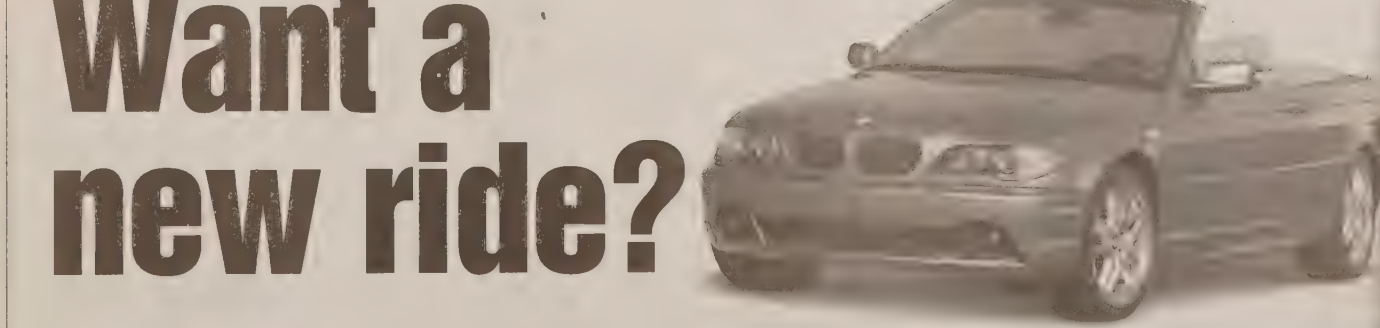
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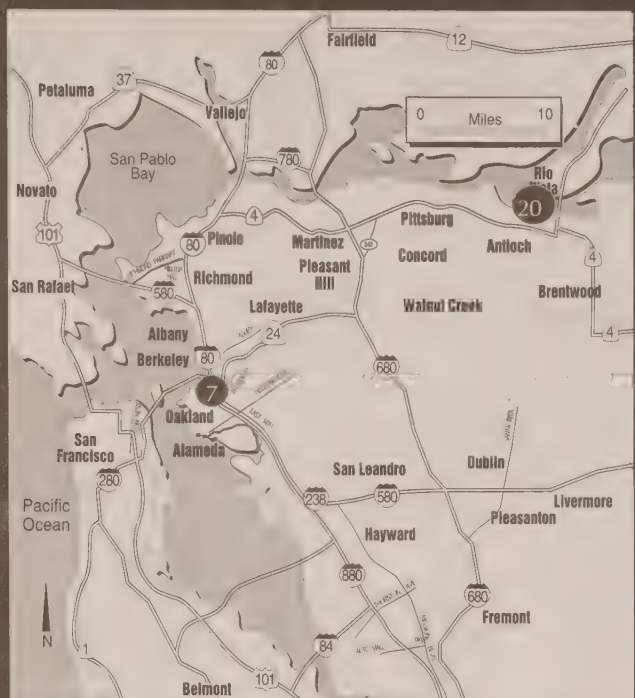
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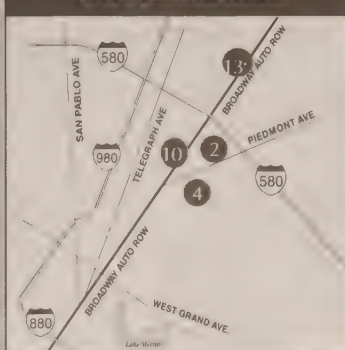


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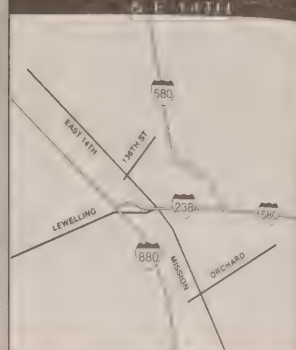
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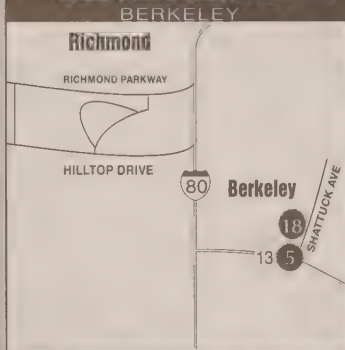
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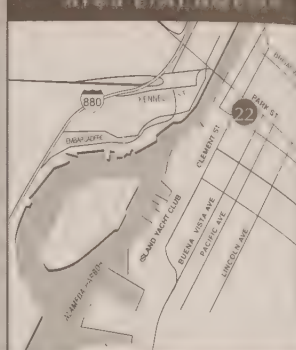
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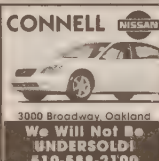
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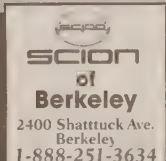
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# Shopping Plus

Friday, April 2, 2004

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## ray of sunshine: Conservatories brings outdoors inside, with flair



ROBERTS FAMILY, above and right, enjoys a quiet evening in the sunroom at their Salem, Conn., home.



STEPHEN DUNN/HARTFORD COURANT

BY JIM SHEA  
THE HARTFORD COURANT

room. If the word conjures images of an architectural afterthought, of a long span of curved glass that is too inhospitable in summer and too

to endure in winter, then it is time to re-conjure. Today's sunrooms not only come in a variety of shapes and sizes, they have evolved into comfortable year-round living spaces. The design that is becoming increasingly popular is the conservatory, a structure of European design that not only brings the out-

doors inside but does so with flair. "Conservatories have a classic elegance that appeals to homeowners," says James Ruppel of Four Seasons Sunrooms, based in Holbrook, N.Y. "As people have become more interested in adding a classic architectural style to the exterior of their home, conservatories have become more and more popular."

Virginia and Richard Roberts of Salem, Conn., added a "Victorian" conservatory to their home two years ago and couldn't be happier with the light and airy space.

"We use this room every day,

even in the winter," Virginia says. "The only time we didn't use it this winter was when we had that sub-zero week. We could have made it warm enough, but the heat (electric baseboard) would have been running constantly."

"Usually we just leave the sliding doors (to the main house) open and set the heat at 60 degrees, which is very comfortable."

The modern sunroom is an off-spring of the greenhouse, a structure that has been around since 30 A.D., when the Roman emperor Tiberius had one constructed from thin sheets of mica so he could

enjoy cucumbers out of season. In the 1600s, greenhouses began sprouting up in Europe. Because many of them were used to grow oranges, they became known as orangeries.

These structures, constructed of glass and masonry and heated with stoves, became status symbols among the wealthy.

One of the most elaborate greenhouses was constructed at the Palace of Versailles. It was 500 feet long, 42 feet wide and 45 feet high.

In this country, George Washington had a greenhouse at Mount Vernon, which was called a pinery

because it he used to grow his favorite fruit, the pineapple.

By the middle of the 19th century, greenhouses became more affordable and their popularity really took off.

The main difference between a greenhouse and the modern sunroom is in the glass.

While the greenhouse relies on standard glass, which has little, if any, insulating ability, today's sunrooms are fashioned from materials that deflect and retain heat, insulate, cut down on glare, block UV rays and even self-clean.

See SUNROOMS, Page 3

## Easter Wine & Dine Deals



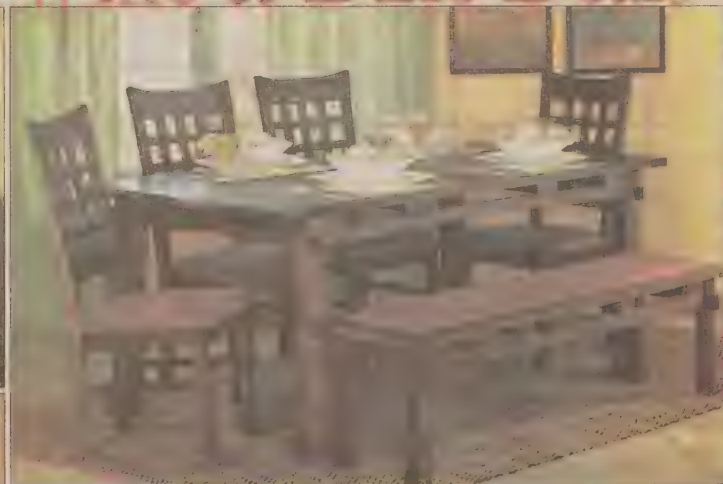
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in currency in all shapes and sizes. Reg. 99¢. NOW 84¢-53.99.

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**Exclusive!** Asian-inspired design of solid hardwood with flared legs and warm rustic finish. 72"Lx40"Dx31"H. Reg. \$449. Multi tie-dye jute rug, 6'x9', \$119.

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Stebing North Coast Chardonnay	12.99	11.99
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## Easter celebration dinner

JELLY BELLY JELLY BEANS AND REAL LEMON

Springtime calls for fresh flavors and bright colors, guaranteed antidotes to the winter blahs. Whether the occasion is Easter dinner for the family or simply a time to enjoy the first signs of spring, what better way to bring on the season than a meal to appeal to adults and youngsters.

And what food signals spring better than gourmet, intensely flavored jelly beans. They take center stage on the tabletop as a cheerful centerpiece. Clear, simple containers let the colors of the jelly beans shine, a welcome change from the usual floral bouquet. The candy shoppe centerpiece also serves a dual purpose when the guests select a jar to take home as a parting gift.

To make the most eye-appealing centerpiece, collect five or seven containers of the same shape, but varying sizes. Layer individual flavors of Jelly Belly gourmet jelly beans in springtime colors, such as cotton candy, berry blue, piña colada and kiwi flavors. Arrange the jars on a tray and sprinkle more jelly beans around the base.

### JELLY-BEAN STUDD MERINGUE NESTS

Make these nests the day before and scoop the sorbet just before serving.

6 egg whites  
Pinch of salt  
1-1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1-1/2 cups sugar Jelly Belly jelly beans (cotton candy, berry blue, lemon drop, island punch, lemon lime)

Mango sorbet or sherbet  
Preheat oven to 170 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Using round cookie cutter or small can, trace the outline of a 4-inch circle, for 8 to 10 circles. Set aside. In clean, dry mixing bowl of electric mixer, beat egg whites, salt and cream of tartar until soft peaks form. With mixer running, add almond extract and gradually add sugar. Beat until stiff and glossy. Spoon meringue about 3/4 cup at a time onto parchment-lined baking sheet, using tracing lines as guides for size. With large spoon make indentation in each meringue mound to form nests. Gently press jelly beans into sides of meringues. Bake 2-1/2 hours, or until hard.

Just before serving, fill meringue nests with small scoop of sorbet or sherbet; serve immediately. Makes 8 to 10 nests.

Note: Nests can be made two days ahead. Store in airtight container.

### MUSTARD-LEMON CHICKEN

A little sweet, a little tart — mustard and lemon are a winning combination.

1 (2-1/2 to 3 pounds) whole fryer chicken

1 cup RealLemon Lemon Juice from Concentrate  
3/4 cup coarse-grain brown mustard

1/2 cup sugar  
1/3 cup cooking oil  
Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Rinse chicken; pat dry. Skewer neck skin to back; tie legs to tail. Twist wings under back. Place, breast side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan.

For marinade, combine lemon juice, mustard, sugar and oil in small bowl. Pierce chicken with fork, pour half of marinade over; cover with plastic wrap. Marinate in refrigerator 2 to 4 hours. Reserve half of marinade. Bake chicken 1 to 1-1/4 hours. Remove from oven when drumsticks move easily, juices run clear and thermometer registers 180 to 185 degrees. Cover and let stand 10 minutes before carving.

Bring remaining marinade to boil; cover and boil 1 minute. Serve reserved marinade with carved chicken. Makes 6 servings.

### ASPARAGUS WITH BROWNED LEMON BUTTER

The splash of lemon dresses up springtime's favorite vegetable.

1/2 cup margarine or butter  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
1/4 cup RealLemon Lemon Juice from Concentrate

2 pounds asparagus, oven-roasted or steamed

Toasted almonds, optional  
Heat margarine or butter in small skillet, cooking until melted and just lightly browned. Remove from heat and stir in garlic and lemon juice. Spoon over asparagus; sprinkle with toasted almonds if desired. Makes 6 servings.

### JELLY BEAN JULEPS

Lime juice and melted jelly beans make a refreshing spring drink.

1 cup lemon lime flavor Jelly Belly jelly beans

3/4 cup water  
1 cup RealLime Lime Juice from Concentrate

1/2 cup fine sugar  
2 tablespoons mint syrup  
4 cups club soda

Fresh mint and lime slices for garnish

Place jelly beans and water in pan and heat until jelly beans are melted, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and add lime juice, sugar and mint syrup.

Pour into small pitcher, add club soda. Stir to dissolve sugar. Pour in tall glasses over ice. Top with club soda and garnish with fresh mint and slice of lime. Makes 6 servings.

For more recipes and information, visit [www.reallemon.com](http://www.reallemon.com) and [www.jellybelly.com](http://www.jellybelly.com).



FOR THE COOK, the best part of this celebration meal is the easy-to-prepare recipes and make-ahead ideas. From top: Jelly Bean Stud Meringue Nests, Mustard-Lemon Chicken, Asparagus with Browned Lemon Butter and Jelly-Bean Stud Meringue Nests.

## A gratitude journal can help us savor life to the fullest

BY LESLIE GARCIA

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

We can vow to lose weight in the coming months. To stop smoking. To actually utilize our gym membership.

Or we can do something that would be so satisfying, so reaffirming, so calming that we just might feel up to tackling other resolutions:

We can keep a gratitude journal. But, some may scoff, in this world of chaos and calamity, just what is there to be grateful for? Besides, that's just one more thing to do.

Well, if you woke up this morning, you have something to write down. If the coffee smells almost as good as it tastes, you have something else to write about.

Same goes for a neighbor who puts your newspaper on your front porch. For a child who hugs you and, when he forgets he's 10 years old, kisses you, too. For not spilling grape juice. For legs to walk and teeth to brush, for clean towels, for milk that hasn't expired.

If the splendor of the rising sun makes you gasp, or a song on the radio makes you cry, or the car starts or the cat purrs, you have an entry, too.

And just think — all this happened before you'd even left your house.

From the little things come life. From the nuances of the mundane comes life's beauty.

Sometimes — too often — we forget this. We focus on what we don't have: a perfect body, perfect health, perfect children. A multi-million-dollar book deal or a huge house. Time.

Which is where a gratitude journal comes in. Taking five minutes to write one, two, a half-dozen things a day we're grateful for can change your perspective, your attitude, your life.

"We tend to think that happiness is usually because of external events," says Sarah Ban Breathnach, author of "Simple Abundance Journal of Gratitude" (Warner Books, \$12.95).

"What gratitude does is open you up to joy. We confuse our needs and our wants. Our wants become so voracious; we see a lot of glittery abundance and we keep our eyes on the wrong prize. Gratitude

will absolutely focus you right back on what matters at the end of the day. It's as simple as that."

Ban Breathnach (pronounced Bon BRAN-uk) began realizing that a dozen years ago. She had written two books on Victorian family life and was working on a third, this one of Victorian decorative details.

But she was depressed. She constantly whined to herself. Some days, she couldn't bring herself to get out of bed. The idea of "ruminating on ruffles and flourishes," she says, didn't give her the impetus she needed.

One day, though, she woke up and found herself "sick of the whining."

"I said, 'Sarah, you're going to sit down and you're not going to get up until you give 100 reasons why you're grateful for your life exactly as it is right now.'"

Six hours and many pots of tea later, she had her list.

"It gave me a boost," says Ban Breathnach. "Gratitude was a new behavior pattern for me. I started writing down five things every day — two months later, my life had changed remarkably on the inside. I was much more content; the whining had stopped."

She also had an idea for a book — one that 30 publishers turned down in the span of two years. But she kept at it.

"I believed I was on to something because gratitude was so empowering," she says.

Finally, the second time around, Warner Books agreed to publish her gratitude journal. It was a success.

Oprah Winfrey talked about it on her show; Oprah.com continues to run quotes from Ban Breathnach, plus ways to start and benefits of keeping a gratitude journal.

"We were so ready for it," Ban Breathnach says from her New York home. "We baby boomers — nothing satisfied us. Why weren't we happy? I think because we were concentrating on what we didn't have."

When life isn't going well, when we've lost a loved one or moved away from home, when we're unable to fulfill our dreams, we tend to focus on the negative. That's

something we as humans don't tend to understand about gratitude, she says.

"Many times, we simply don't feel grateful," says Ban Breathnach, whose latest book is "Romancing the Ordinary" (Scribner, \$25). "But we're not told in the Bible we must feel happy; we're simply told in all things to give thanks."

So when she suffered a concussion on an airplane after a man

opened the overhead bin and his suitcase bopped her on the head, she found a blessing in slowing down. Plus, while recuperating at her home in England, she renewed a relationship with a man whom she now plans to marry.

"My experience is that gratitude's most profound blessings come when I don't feel grateful,"

See GRATITUDE, Page 3

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# Gratitude

FROM PAGE 2

to say, "Thank you for this situation. I don't know what the blessing is, but I'll wrestle with the angel to find a silver lining in every cloud."

On a bad day, you can remember that the school cafeteria is serving Salisbury steak and be grateful that the math test was postponed, that there wasn't one bill in the mail. Or simply that the day is over. "We're all given so many kinds of gifts every day, and we never say thank you," Ban Breathnach says. "You get to know the things that make you happy." Ban Breathnach says. "You start to notice patterns of pleasure, like discovering a won-

derful hot chocolate you could try again."

She wants keeping a gratitude journal to be a joy, not just something else to do. Just get a notebook, she says, or index cards.

Or buy a book dedicated to gratitude journaling. Just start writing — no matter your age.

"I didn't invent gratitude," she says. "I was just the first contemporary person to remind people that it could change their life."

About a year ago, I heard a story on the radio about a man who had decided to write down, every day, one thing for which he was grateful. His only rule: not to repeat himself. And years later, he still hadn't.

That afternoon, I bought a striped spiral notebook my son and I could use to record things for which we are grateful. I would like to say we

filled it, and are now on our second or third.

Alas, we never quite developed the habit; I think we're on page 8.

But now, I'm using a new year as a fine reason to start writing in it again. And to make ourselves aware of all of life's blessings.

**Things to be thankful for**

Here are a few things I am thankful for. What's on your list?

- My family
- New tennis shoes
- No cavities
- A safe trip to work
- A parking place in front of my favorite store
- Popcorn at the movies
- A cat's purr
- The sunlight hitting the red oak leaves
- A call from an old friend

■ A car that starts right away on the coldest day

■ A child's hug

■ Rolling a Yahtzee on my very last turn

■ The smell of my mother's perfume

■ An 18-year-old nephew who still says, "I love you."

■ Laughing uncontrollably with my son over a silly birthday card

■ "The Star-Spangled Banner"

■ The crispy taste of a sweet apple

■ Watching returning service members hug loved ones

■ Christmas carols

■ Remembering something about a loved one long gone and feeling free to cry or laugh

■ Holding hands

■ The smell of vanilla candles

— Leslie Garcia

"What gratitude does is open you up to joy. We confuse our needs and our wants. Gratitude will absolutely focus you right back on what matters at the end of the day. It's as simple as that."

— Sarah Ban Breathnach

# Sunrooms

FROM PAGE 1

For the Roberts' conservatory, something called "MC2 Wonderglass," developed by Four Seasons Rooms, was used.

"Wonderglass keeps a room cooler in summer and warmer in winter," says Matt Ostrowski of Norwich, Conn.-based Creative Enclosures, who designed and constructed the Roberts' conservatory.

Basically this type of glass works by reflecting and deflecting, so it keeps the heat from the sun out in winter while keeping home-generated heat inside in winter.

The sunroom shell also has been constructed of lightweight aluminum with vinyl cladding, while the interior can feature a wood frame that can be painted or stained.

The choice of materials is, of course, reflected in the cost. Because there are so many variables involved, it's difficult to nail down a standard price for a sunroom or conservatory. The Roberts' addition, which is a modified conservatory design called "double valley," measures 24 feet wide, 16 feet deep at its deepest point and cost \$65,000. But that is the higher end of the spectrum.

Virginia Roberts says she wanted a sunroom from the time she was a child, while Richard became intrigued by them while traveling in Europe on business.

After moving into their new house six years ago, the Roberts noticed they seldom used the backyard deck, which was on the north side. "It sat in the shadows most of the day and was usually back there," Virginia says.

Eventually the Roberts got together with Ostrowski at Creative De-

sign. Initially, they were just going to add a standard Four Seasons "Victorian" conservatory, but as they became more involved, they decided to expand it on both sides to increase its size. The entire construction took about two months.

Creative began by tearing out the Roberts' old deck and then building a new foundation upon which to rest the conservatory.

After the room was erected, Creative also did the electrical and trim work, installed the heaters and even put down the tile floor.

The Roberts were, and are, delighted with the outcome. "I wanted to finish the basement first," Richard says. "I thought we would just use this room like a deck. I'm surprised how much we do use it. We don't

use the family room as much."

"My mother (who lives with the family) likes to come out here and read," Virginia says. "My daughters have their parties out here, and at Christmas, we put a second tree here. I like to come sit out here when it's raining. It's very relaxing."

Richard says he is partial to the snow. "When it's snowing, you can sit here and look out at the hillside, and you feel like you're in Colorado," he says. Although snow builds up on the roof, Richard says it slides right off.

As for maintenance, the Roberts says they wash the glass once or twice a year, but definitely after the winter. The job is done with mops, squeegees and a power washer.

In terms of durability, the Roberts say they had one small leak early on, but that was quickly repaired. Nor have they had any problem with another early concern: summer heat.

"It really doesn't get that hot out here," Virginia says. "We open the windows and put on the fan, or we just leave the sliding door open and use the air conditioning."

Although the Roberts conservatory serves as a kind of 365-days-a-year backyard patio, sunrooms can be used for everything from great rooms to kitchens to dining rooms to coverings for swimming pools.

Finding the right sunroom is a matter of deciding what you are looking for and how much you want to spend, and then finding the dealer

who can best meet your needs.

A list of sunroom companies can be found in the Yellow Pages, or with a quick Google search.

For the handy, there are even manufacturers who sell do-it-your-

self kits.

The sunroom may not cure cabin fever or eliminate the need for a winter vacation, but outside of a plane ticket south, it could be the next-best thing.

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# Using a stability ball can help you tone, stretch and strengthen your body

BY AMY BERTRAND  
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Stability ball. Swiss ball. Balance ball. Exercise ball. Fitness ball. Flex-a-Ball.

They go by many names and come in all colors and sizes. They seem to be everywhere these days — in gyms, physical therapy centers, offices, homes, even birthing rooms. But just what are you supposed to do with those big round things?

"You can do just about anything on the ball," says Bob Eckert, a personal trainer who teaches a stability ball class at the O'Fallon, Mo., YMCA. "With the ball you can get a great workout at home, right in front of the TV, even."

The stability ball (which is what we'll call it for the sake of consistency) was invented in the 1960s by an Italian toymaker. It was first used in physical therapy by a Swiss spinal rehab specialist. The success of that therapy caught on as the ball made its way to physical therapy centers in the United States in the 1980s. Now, the balls are the new craze in the world of fitness.

How do the balls work? Well, they tend to roll, and because of that you have to engage a series of muscles just to keep your balance on them.

"Stability balls are great because they provide an unstable surface," says Becky Vitale, head of physical therapy at Missouri Bone and Joint Center and a certified Pilates instructor.

"They force you to use your postural muscles just to keep your body stable. You engage muscles you may not otherwise use. It's really versatile and great for your trunk, for that all-important core stability."

Paul Frediani explains the benefits of core training in his book "PowerSculpt: The Women's Body Sculpting & Weight Training Workout Using the Exercise Ball."

"Like the steel cables of a bridge, your core is the foundation and support system of your body," he writes. "It stabilizes your spine and connects your upper and lower extremities. It is the central source of power and is essential for efficient movement."

In fact, movements on the ball have proved more efficient than similar movements on the ground. The National Strength and Conditioning Association recently published a study that found crunches on a stability ball elicited more muscle activities in upper and lower portions of the abdomen than any other ab exercise studied. Although the basic movement is essentially still a crunch, more muscles are engaged just trying to maintain balance on the ball.

Though the ball is a great exercise tool, it's also still widely used for rehabilitation.

Vitale says therapists use it for

back and knee patients and for stroke and head-injury patients. "It's a great tool for balance. People who've had certain injuries have trouble knowing where their body is in space, and this is great to help that."

She says some people who can't even walk can use the ball to work muscles that otherwise they'd only be able to work while standing.

In addition, the ball is replacing chairs at workstations all over the world. In Europe, some schools use the balls instead of chairs. Alice Marre, 26, a Web content manager at Washington University's office of public affairs, has become a believer in using the ball day in and day out at her desk.

"I was working with a physical therapist a little while ago because of some unexplained back pain," Marre said. "No one could figure out what was wrong with me. She gave me some basic exercises with the ball and said I could sit on it for a few hours a day to see how that worked."

Marre took the advice and eventually worked up to a full day. Now the ball replaces her office chair at the computer she's parked in front of at least eight hours a day.

"It really strengthens your core and makes you sit stick-straight," she says. "You can't lean and you can't slouch or you'll fall off. It's made such a huge difference for me. I'm pain-free. I grab anybody I can get ahold of and recommend it to them."

Marre has been so convincing that several of her co-workers have adopted the stability ball, too.

One of the most interesting uses for the ball has been for pregnant women in labor. It has become standard equipment in some birthing centers and hospitals.

At St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, you can find one in every labor and delivery room. "I'm a big fan of these balls," says Jodi Vukusic, a registered nurse and Lamaze educator at St. John's. "You can use them in early labor for comfort and for progress of labor."

Women can sit on the ball, bounce on it and rock back and forth to help ease the pain of labor and help move labor along.

Doctors usually recommend walking to speed labor, but most women tire after just a little while of that, Vukusic says. "This offers a happy medium. They are still moving around, but without all the weight."

## How to use the ball; how to choose the right size

**How to use the ball:** For examples of the many ways to use the stability ball, check out these exercises suggested by Bob Eckert, a personal trainer at the O'Fallon, Mo., YMCA. The moves range from simple (the ball sit) to difficult (balancing on the

ball). In each exercise, remember to keep your abs tight, pulling your belly button into your spine. Repeat each move until it becomes difficult for you. Check with your doctor before beginning this or any exercise program.

**Ball sit (good for warm-up):** Sit on the ball with your knees at a 90-degree angle, pulling your abs in. You are engaging several muscle groups just trying to keep your balance. Rotate your hips from side to side or in circles to warm up your lower back.

**Reverse leg curl (works hamstrings):** Lying on your back, rest your heels on the top of the ball with your arms at your sides. Raise your bottom off the floor until your body is in a straight line. Use your hamstrings (the muscles in the backs of your thighs) to pull the ball in toward your body until your knees are at a 90-degree angle. Then use the hamstrings to push the ball out, returning it to the starting position. For a harder variation, do this exercise using just one leg.

**Jackknife (works abs, legs, glutes and arms):** Put your upper body in a push-up position, with your hands on the floor and the ball under your shins. Draw your knees into your chest, moving the ball toward your hands, then return to the starting position. To make this more difficult, pull the ball in on a diagonal instead of straight in.

**Supine bridge (works hamstrings, glutes and spinal muscles):** Sit on the ball. Roll forward until your upper back, shoulders and neck are resting comfortably on the ball. Your feet should be on the ground with knees at a 90-degree angle. Keep your glutes tight and hold this position.

**Hip extensor (works your glutes and quads):** Get in the supine bridge position. Extend one leg straight out while keeping the other on the floor, with the knee bent at a 90-degree angle. Lower your bottom to the ground (but don't touch the ground). Using your glutes, push your bottom back up to starting position.

**Pec flys (works chest and biceps):** Use the ball instead of a traditional exercise bench to do exercises such as the pec fly. Roll out to the supine bridge position. Then, with dumbbells in each hand, put your arms straight out to the sides in a T-position. Raise both arms, keeping the arms straight with a slight bend in the elbows, till they come together above your chest. Return to starting position.

**Push-up on the ball: (works chest, back, biceps, triceps):** Put your toes or shins on the ball and put your hands on the ground under your shoulders (in a traditional push-up position). Bending at the elbows, lower your chest to the ground



NANCY COLE BEGINS the single-leg lift, top, with arms extended, palms down, and calves and heels on the stability ball. After raising hips, she slowly lifts leg, bottom, toward the ceiling directly above her hips.

CHARLES TRAKOR JR.

and push back up. For an easier option, try doing the push-up against the wall. Put the ball on the wall, chin-high. Put your hands shoulder-width apart on the ball. Bending your elbows, move your body toward the wall into a push-up, then extend your arms back to starting position.

**Abdominal crunch on the ball (works abdominal muscles):** Sit on the ball and roll forward until your hips move off the ball and the lower back is supported by the curve of the ball. Place your hands behind your ears (do not clasp hands). Lift your head and chest off of the ball until you feel a contraction in the abs, then return to previous position.

**Balance on ball (Helps Balance and Muscle Coordination):** Stand in front of the ball with your shins against the ball (feet should be about a foot apart). Slowly move forward until your feet are off of the floor and your hands are on top of the ball (balancing your entire body on the ball). Be sure to keep your head neu-

tral. To make this more difficult, kneel upright, with your hands off of the ball. You may need to use a spotter or a wall to help you keep your balance.

## How to choose the right size

Following are recommended ball sizes (diameter) based on a person's height:

Up to 4-feet-10: 18 inches  
4-feet 10-inches to 5-feet 5-inches: 22 inches  
5-feet 5-inches to 6-feet: 26 inches  
6-feet and taller: 30 inches

Stability balls come in a variety of sizes and can be inflated to further adjust the height and stability of the ball.

But how do you know which size to buy? First, start with the size rec-

ommended in the chart above, inflate the ball (or deflate it, if it's inflated) to suit your body.

"You want a 90-degree angle at the hips and at the knees when you sit on it," says Becky Vitale, head physical therapist at Missouri Bone and Joint Center.

But be careful not to over-inflate the ball, she says. "If you get tight, it's hard to do anything with the ball. You can't grip it with your hands or dig your heels into it. You need that for some exercises."

Price varies by brand, but you can usually get a stability ball to \$30 at fitness and sports and discount chains.

Also, be sure to check the limit of the ball. Some are only anted not to burst if the user is less than 200 pounds, but some as high as 600 pounds.

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# How to make an eye-catching statement with your hot tub or spa

BY CARRIE ALEXANDER  
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Talk about multitasking. You can watch the latest installment of "Survivor," surf the Internet for stock prices and listen to the new Alicia Keys CD, all while massaging away those muscle aches from your morning workout.

Manufacturers are creating hot tubs for families living in today's fast-paced, technologically savvy world. These spas are more versatile and multifunctional than ever before. They can be a place to unwind, to socialize with neighbors or to catch up on business e-mail.

Goodbye, cocktail-party hot tub of the 1960s and '70s. Hello, family hot tub of the future.

The Galaxy model by Cal Spas of Pomona, Calif., is chock-full of amenities: a DVD player, a CD/stereo system with surround sound, 49 jets, four waterfalls, fiber-optic lighting and a 42-inch pop-up plasma TV. The six-seater model also boasts an intimate nook that can be configured with 14 dedicated jets for hydrotherapy to the neck, back and lower body.

The company's Newporter model includes similar entertainment options along with a dining area spacious enough for you and seven of your closest friends.

You'll find many of the same features on the Ultimate Extreme model by Coast Spas of Langley, British Columbia, along with 80 therapy jets, a waterproof mouse and keyboard and, listen up, guys — a floating remote control.

It's like squeezing all the ingredients of a family room into a hot tub.

These amenity-filled spas are like today's luxury vehicles, and they have the price tag to match. For such luxury models, you can expect prices to start somewhere in the neighborhood of \$18,500. The Galaxy retails for about \$35,000.

Gulp. Relax, you don't have to be a "Survivor" winner to afford a hot tub. Most companies produce models in a wide price range.

Budget is certainly a consideration, says Dave Allen, general manager at Erickson Custom Pools and Spas in Clermont, Fla., "but I think just about anyone can own one."

If you're considering buying a hot tub, here's a primer.

Basically, buyers choose from two types of spas or hot tubs: a self-contained spa that has its working systems contained within the unit and that generally can be moved; and a nonself-contained spa that is usually permanently installed in the ground, with working systems located elsewhere.

Portable, self-contained spas don't require external plumbing, excavation or electrical work, and they plug into a standard 110-volt household wall socket — all benefits to owners. Also, they can be transported if you move. Portable spas generally are less expensive and have fewer restrictions on their placement than permanent spas, Allen says.

The lowest-priced spa is a portable model that can be placed just about anywhere and requires no installation, he says.

"They have models that you can load in the back of a pickup truck, and two guys can carry it in and plug it in," Allen says. "They start around \$2,000 and are fairly full-featured. The seating will be limited; three to four people is all it would hold. But it's great for people that live in an apartment and have a small balcony, or need the hydrotherapy that a spa offers. It's definitely the entry-level spa."

This is a good choice, he says, for customers who "want to try one out but don't know if they want to have a spa and don't want to make a larger investment."

Larger portable acrylic and fiberglass spas also come in many shapes with various seating configurations. Many units have contoured seating, and some feature sections that let you recline in the spa. To see which tub feels best, climb inside one with or without water in it. A dealer can help you decide which interior configuration will work best for you.

In-ground spas often are pricier, and installation takes longer because they require plumbing, electrical and sometimes gas work. But the designs are virtually unlimited, and they can be built to coordinate with your pool.

In-ground spas allow customers to choose the number of jets and where they should be located, as well as deciding between adjustable and nonadjustable jets, which affects the direction of the water flow.

The number of jets is less important than the type of jets and where they are placed, Allen says.

"The first thing we do is start delving into why they (the customers) want the spa," Allen says. "We start asking questions and try and flesh out what their real needs are, what it is they're trying to do with a hot tub."

A spa can serve many purposes, Allen says. It can act as a stress reliever, a soothing balm for medical conditions, a focus for entertaining or a place to spend time with the family.

He suggests buying one that seats at least four if you'll be using the spa for entertainment purposes. A spa chosen for exercise ought to be deeper, and one used for hydrotherapy needs to have jets in the right spots.

For many, the spa "becomes the focal point of the entertaining area," Allen says. "Nobody just goes out and builds, usually, a big 10-by-10- or 10-by-12-foot hole in



CAL SPAS' ENTERTAINMENT SERIES tubs feature a flat-screen TV, surround-sound speakers, DVD, VCR and CD player options.

the ground. Usually, they build something that's a real eye-catcher, with waterfalls and rocks and lots of vegetation. They usually make some kind of statement."

Whatever statement you want to make with your spa — private sanctuary, party central, family time — there are plenty of features to help.

"I can take any design, any feature that's on a pool and put it on a spa," says Joyce Bowles, owner of Backyard Aquatics in Mount Dora, Fla. "All I do is scale it down. There's nothing you can't do with a spa."

Put a bridge over it, she says. Add a waterfall. Surround it with a grotto.

The possibilities are endless.

"Most people want that feeling of having a backyard oasis," she says.

The key to designing a personal oasis is discovering what that means to each customer, she says. While one spa owner may be soothed by the sound of rushing water from a waterfall, another person may find it too noisy. Maybe a trickling waterfall will work instead.

For a little pizzazz, homeowners can outline the perimeter of the spa with dramatic fiber-optic lighting. Landscape lighting can help create an inviting atmosphere around the spa when focused on trees and architectural elements or set along a path leading to the spa.

Dealers today often carry out-

door lighting, gazebos, saunas, beucos and any number of features that enhance the lifestyle centered around a spa. Just a matter of deciding what you want, Bowles says.

Even when homeowners agree on what they want, she says, she can find a workaroun, as she did with a County couple.

"He wanted a koi pond, wanted a spa," Bowles says, "them both and bridged it."

She separated the two of water with stacked stone. "Everybody got what they wanted," she says.

And that, she says, is why a spa should be all about

## The power of Pilates

ARA

An estimated 6 million people across the country are now strengthening their bodies and minds, and losing weight, with the help of Pilates exercises, the fastest growing fitness trend in decades. Among the Hollywood celebrities publicly touting its benefits, Goldie Hawn, Candace Bergen, Brad Pitt, Ben Affleck and Matthew Broderick.

Thanks to the Method's popularity, a growing industry has emerged. More than 11 thousand people in the U.S. now claim to be Pilates instructors, but according to the Pilates Method Alliance (PMA), the international, not-for-profit, professional association that establishes certification and continuing education standards for Pilates professionals, at least 25 percent of them have not been properly trained.

"If you are working with an instructor who doesn't have adequate training, you run an incred-

ible risk of getting hurt," says Kevin Bowen, co-founder of the PMA.

"Pilates isn't something you just start doing one day. You have to make sure you have an instructor who understands the Method and how to make the exercises work for you."

If done correctly, Pilates exercises strengthen, tone and stretch the body, encourage proper breathing and facilitate good posture.

Here are 10 important questions you should ask an instructor before signing up for their class:

1. What kind of training did you go through and where?
2. How much time was spent in your original training?
3. How long have you been teaching?
4. Did you only learn the mat work or was your program comprehensive in nature, teaching you Pilates exercises on the Pilates

equipment?

5. Do you understand the body, have basic knowledge of kinesiology and understand fundamental biomechanics?

6. Do you understand the aging process?

7. Do you pay close attention to safety and guidelines?

8. Does the facility where you teach practice safety standards for group classes?

9. Do you have a commitment to continuing education?

10. Are you affiliated with a professional organization like the Pilates Method Alliance?

For help finding a Pilates studio or instructor in your area, who is likely to answer these questions to your satisfaction, log onto the Pilates Method Alliance Web site at [www.pilatesmethodalliance.org](http://www.pilatesmethodalliance.org). Click on the link on the left hand side that says "Finding a Teacher." That will take you to a page with a link to a searchable database.

### The history of Pilates

Around 1914, Joseph Pilates — the man for whom the exercise regimen is named — was a performer and a boxer living in England.

At the outbreak of WWI, he was placed under forced internment along with other German nationals in Lancaster, England.

There he taught fellow camp members the concepts and exercises developed over 20 years of self-study and apprenticeship in yoga, Zen, and ancient Greek and Roman physical regimens.

It was at this time that he began devising the system of original exercises known today as "matwork," or exercises done on the floor. He called this regimen "Contrology."

A few years later, he was transferred to another camp, where he became a nurse/caretaker to the many internees struck with wartime disease and physical injury.

Here, he began devising equipment to rehabilitate his "patients," taking springs from the beds and rigging them to create spring resistance and "movement" for the bedridden.

In a way, Pilates equipment today is not much different than that of yesteryear. Spring tension, straps to hold feet or hands, supports for back, neck and shoulder are as important now as they were then.

Because of the remarkable nature of the equipment to both challenge and support the body as it learns to move more efficiently, the inimitably designed pieces truly act as a complement to the challenging "matwork" exercises.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

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— Mark Twain

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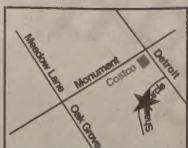
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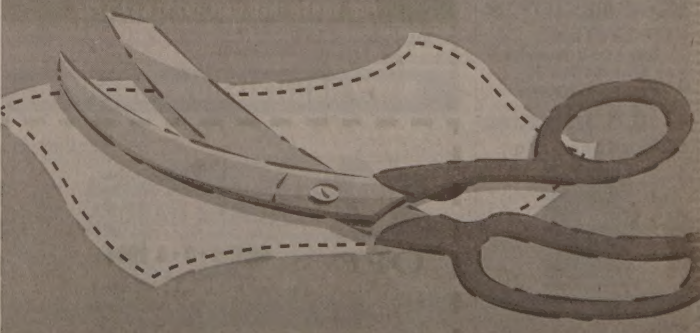
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# Growing trend of shared appointments offers more time, less privacy

BY LIZ DOUP

SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

It's tough trying to see a doctor. You can hibernate for months waiting for an appointment, then wait hours in a doctor's office.

Now, a new way of doing business means you see doctors sooner and get more of their time, but there's a catch.

You have to share: Your time. Your ailments. And, yes, your doctor.

From California to New Hampshire, thousands of patients dealing with everything from hypertension to breast-reduction surgeries now see their doctor for 90 minutes, instead of the typical 15, with a dozen or so strangers during a shared medical appointment.

In Weston, Fla., Cleveland Clinic started treating some diabetic patients in groups in January and will expand to Parkinson's patients in March and bariatric surgery patients in April.

"It's a wonderful new way to educate patients," says Dr. Howard Graman, the clinic's executive director. "They talk about mutual concerns and hear new ideas they might not have considered. It's efficient, too. Instead of seeing six people in 90 minutes, a doctor sees 12."

Still, proponents acknowledge this new way of treating patients, which is voluntary, isn't for everyone. Acutely ill patients who require extensive physical exams or complex medical procedures need privacy and more one-on-one doctoring. It's not appropriate for first-time patients or those with dementia or hearing impairments either.

And many people don't want to discuss personal matters in a group. Diabetes, for example, brings in other complications: impotence, depression and weight problems.

Though group education takes place at University of Miami School of Medicine's diabetes treatment center, shared appointments do not. Dr. Luigi Meneghini, the center director, cites privacy as a drawback.

"In a group, people may not be comfortable talking about impotence or weight issues," he says. "Those are sensitive things."

Indeed, when Jose Cabral, a Cleveland Clinic endocrinologist, explained shared appointments to his patients, some demurred. One didn't want to talk in front of a group; another simply preferred privacy.

Privacy, of course, is a major concern and not just about one's own personal matters. Typically, patients, including those at Cleveland Clinic, agree to share medical information with the group and sign a waiver saying they won't talk about others' conditions outside the room.

But for doctors and patients alike, it takes getting used to because it's such a drastic change. "I started this as a skeptic," says Cabral, who sees some diabetic patients as a group. "But so far, so good. Patients often say, 'The doctor was so rushed, he had no time to spend with me.' This may be an answer."

At a recent shared appointment at Cleveland Clinic, eight people, all with type 2 diabetes, gather in a wood-paneled conference room, where coffee, tea and water are

served in an informal setting. Cabral stands before his patients who sit in a semi-circle. Before joining the group, a nurse, stationed at a nearby table, weighs patients and takes their blood pressure.

During the nearly two-hour session — it ran over the typical 90 minutes — Cabral and a diabetic educator alternately talk, making the session part medical exam, part education session and part pep rally.

One by one, Cabral addresses each patient by name and describes his or her history to the group. One man has diabetes-related heart problems, another has kidney complications.

As Cabral explains that diabetes-related problems can result in foot amputation if patients aren't diligent, the men and women remove their shoes and socks for the doctor's customary foot check. Cabral talks to each patient individually as he examines their feet and listens to their lungs through a stethoscope.

"Have you been exercising?" he asks Joy Harber, 53, of Sunrise, Fla.

She has, announcing she's dropped 17 pounds. Hearing this, Cabral leads the group in a round of applause. He asks Harber more questions, then gives her the chance to question him.

While he makes notes in Harber's chart, a diabetic educator speaks about everything from carbohydrate counting to blood sugar levels, writing important points on a large white board in front of the room.

Check your own feet. Monitor your blood sugar.

These eight patients, meeting for the first time, don't interact much and ask few questions. But response varies in groups as patients get more comfortable with routine.

"It's amazing what people will ask," Cabral says. "One man — at a previous session — asked about erections and if impotence is somehow related to diabetes."

As a result, the entire group learned the answer: Diabetes-related

circulatory problems and nerve damage can result in impotence.

Around the country, these shared appointment groups take various forms. They run from 90 minutes to a couple of hours and range from a half-dozen to two dozen people. Some keep the same members. Others have a different mix of people every time.

Some, like Cleveland Clinic, target specific conditions. Others see patients with different problems. If privacy is necessary, the doctor sees a patient at another time or in another room while a nurse, educator or psychologist works with the group.

Doctors also see patients individually as needed.

Typically, shared medical appointments are voluntary, and patients have the option of seeing a doctor alone. But reality factors in. In cases where group sessions help relieve a patient backlog, you can get a shared appointment within two or three weeks, vs. two to three months for a one-on-one.

Rather than waiting, Roberto Marrero, 40, of Davie, Fla., joined Cabral's group session.

"Everyone was so much older — 55 at least — and I wasn't thrilled about that," he says. In addition, he tired of hearing the same information repeated to each patient.

But he liked the fact that an educator talked about diet and food labels.

"You're taught that in the beginning, but it was a good refresher course," says Marrero, diagnosed eight years ago.

In the beginning, two men pioneered shared medical appointments: one, a frustrated doctor; the other, a frustrated patient.

Colorado geriatrician John Scott wanted a better way to treat elderly, ill patients who needed more than 15 minutes with their doctor. In 1991, he came up with shared appointments that combine medical care and group support.

"It puts some humanity back into technology," says Scott, now a University of Colorado professor of medicine and geriatrics. "I remember a patient asking how she

was going to live with her arthritis. Another patient, badly crippled with rheumatoid arthritis, stood up and said, 'See me during break and I'll show you how.'"

A few years later, frustrated by problems seeing a doctor, California psychologist Ed Noffsinger expanded the idea, including people of all ages and various diseases.

"I'd gotten so frustrated, first trying to get an appointment, then waiting two hours in the lobby for the doctor," he says. "He was al-

ways so rushed and it seems there was always something I forgot to ask him. I thought, 'There has to be a better way.'"

Noffsinger introduced the idea to California's behemoth Kaiser Permanente system in 1996, then became a consultant in the field.

Both men say that group appointments can be more than effective. Scott points to a 1997 analysis of group appointments for the previous year at a Colorado Permanente Medical Care Pro-

gram. The study found an 11 percent decrease in emergency visits and a 12 percent decrease in hospital use and readmission. Savings translated into nearly a month in patient-care costs more recent study found savings of about \$40 a month per patient.

For doctors, seeing more patients also can translate into increased billing. Typically, they conduct one-on-one exams of patients during the session, and those exams are billed as office visits.

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